



**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**HB 354 – Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment**  
**February 6, 2024**  
**Favorable**

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 354 – Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment*. The bill provides an innovative approach to increase the graduation and licensure rates of students in licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs at community colleges. These LPNs would be well positioned for success in furthering their education to become registered nurses.

The Maryland Pathways to Nursing Program model recognizes nursing students need an integrated support system in order to be successful. While there are other programs that offer financial support, the Pathways Program is different because it addresses the other social determinants that impact the success of nursing students. Many nursing students, particularly those in community colleges, face challenges with child care, family care, and transportation<sup>i</sup>. This problem is more difficult to overcome for students from Black and brown communities because of the lack of institutional resources.

Our state is facing a drastic nursing shortage.<sup>ii</sup> We need bold, new solutions to support new nursing students. We ask for a favorable report. Please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) if we can provide more information.

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<sup>i</sup> Díaz MI, Sánchez MS, Tanguma J. Predictors of success for Hispanic nursing students in the first BSN course. *Hisp Health Care Int.* 2012;10(2):84-92. doi:10.1891/1540-4153.10.2.84

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>