



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 18, 2020

To: The Honorable Derek E. Davis, Chairman  
House Economic Matters Committee

From: Jennifer Witten, Vice President, Government Affairs  
Maryland Hospital Association

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 840- Joint Committee on Workforce Development

Dear Chairman Davis:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 61-member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 840. Maryland's nonprofit hospitals and health systems care for millions of people each year, treating 2.3 million in emergency departments and delivering more than 67,000 babies. The 108,000 people they employ are [caring for Maryland](#) around-the-clock every day—delivering leading edge, high-quality medical service and investing a combined \$1.75 billion in their communities, expanding access to housing, education, transportation, and food.

The health care industry is the second largest sector in Maryland's labor market and the fastest growing. The field is expected to employ 400,000 Marylanders by 2026.<sup>i</sup> Hospital leaders' top priority is to ensure future health care needs are met. There are many areas of the state where jobs in critical professions remain unfilled. By 2030, many of the state's 24 jurisdictions are expected to have shortages in primary care, mental health, and addiction providers.<sup>ii</sup>

Maryland's hospitals support HB 840, which would convene stakeholders to evaluate the state's workforce and identify appropriate strategies for expansion. MHA would appreciate inclusion on the Joint Committee on Workforce Development. It is important that a statewide committee examining workforce issues have representation from the hospital field as we look to build our future workforce and ensure all Marylanders have access to the care they need.

For these reasons, we ask for a *favorable* report on HB 840.

For more information, please contact:  
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<sup>i</sup> Maryland Department of Labor, Long Term Industry Projections, 2016-2026

<sup>ii</sup> IHS Markit. Maryland Primary Care and Selected Specialty Health Workforce Study