



Maryland  
Hospital Association

January 21, 2025

Dr. Jon Kromm  
Executive Director  
Health Services Cost Review Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Dr. Kromm,

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) and its member hospitals and health systems, I am providing feedback on the Health Services Cost Review Commission draft recommendation for Nurse Support Program II: Competitive Institutional Grants Program. We appreciate HSCRC's request for the hospital field's feedback on this program and for ensuring the field's inclusion in the Nurse Support Program II Advisory Group to help shape the draft recommendation.

Maryland hospitals proudly support the Nurse Support Program II. As outlined in the staff's conceptual framework, aligning the goals of the hospital field with our academic partners is essential to grow the nursing workforce pipeline.

We support the following staff recommendations:

1. Request for NSP II permanent funding with annual reports on program performance
  - Providing permanent funding will align this program with NSP I and provide stability for the program
2. Focus on retaining graduates in Maryland through alignment with NSP I goals, by building student pathways to nursing that address vacancies in understaffed specialties and care settings in Maryland, including primary care and community health
3. Identify new opportunities to prioritize funding to underrepresented groups in nursing through both competitive institutional grants and faculty-focused programs
4. Promote curriculum updates to strengthen Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and promote Competency-Based Education (CBE) to reduce learning gaps and promote retention of new graduates
5. Enhance data collection infrastructure and analysis to promote greater accountability in reporting statewide data and support responsiveness of NSP II to Maryland nursing education and workforce trends
  - We support collecting data on new graduate employment in Maryland
6. Based on data results, prioritize funding initiatives that best support the needs of Maryland's health care system

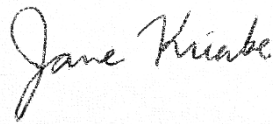
We offer suggestions on the following staff recommendations:

- Add new and updated NSP II funding initiatives, prioritizing education that prepares nurses to address health equity and practice in community/population health settings to align with AHEAD Model goals
  - While it is important to focus on community health nursing and care delivered outside the hospital walls, we encourage HSCRC to maintain NSP II's emphasis on preparing nurses to practice at the bedside in acute care settings
  - Our hospital members continue to identify bedside nurses as being in high demand, especially those working in medical-surgical units

Maryland hospitals fully support the Nurse Support Program II's goals and the staff recommendations. We appreciate HSCRC and the Maryland Higher Education Commission for providing us with the opportunity to engage in work group discussions on NSP II.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our recommendation further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Jane Krienke  
Director, Government Affairs & Policy  
Maryland Hospital Association