

House Bill 772 - Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students - Alterations

Position: *Support* February 25, 2025 House Ways & Means Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 772. HB 772 would enhance the Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students by directing county boards of education to provide funding to local workforce development boards.

MHA recognizes that workforce development is essential to ensuring a strong pipeline of skilled professionals capable of meeting our state's growing health care needs. HB 772 is a critical step forward in this effort. This legislation will strengthen Maryland's health care workforce by providing dedicated funding for career counseling, helping students explore and pursue careers in health care. By addressing the increasing demand for qualified professionals, HB 772 would help hospitals and clinics remain staffed with well-trained individuals who can deliver high-quality care.

Hospitals collaborate with local workforce development boards, community colleges, and other organizations to create training programs, internships, and job placement opportunities. HB 772 will reinforce these partnerships, expanding our ability to prepare and support the next generation of health care workers. By investing in workforce development, this bill will build a sustainable health care system that meets the needs of patients and communities across Maryland.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 772.

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