



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 19, 2026

To: The Honorable Emily K. Shetty, Chair, House Health & Social Services Subcommittee  
The Honorable, Dana Jones, Vice Chair, Senate Health & Human Services Subcommittee

Re: Letter of Support- MDH Health Professional Boards and Commissions

Dear Chair Shetty:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the MDH Health Professional Boards and Commissions budget, specifically, the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants and the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff.

As introduced, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026, includes \$10 million for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff and \$2 million for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants. We support the transfer of funding from the Maryland Board of Physicians special fund and respectfully request this subcommittee maintain funding for both programs.

Maryland's Loan Repayment Programs (MLRP) are critical for addressing the health care workforce shortage in rural and underserved areas. MLRP offers health care professionals educational loan repayments in exchange for a two-year service obligation.<sup>1</sup> This is an attractive incentive for medical professionals who often graduate owing substantial debt.

Ensuring these programs are fully funded is critical for supporting Maryland's health care workforce.

For more information, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Documents/MLARP/MLRP%20PPA%20Advisory%20Meetings/MLARP-Advisory-Council-PPA-General-Assembly-Report-8-7-2025.pdf>