

# MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Nick Charles

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 4, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 975 – *Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment for Nurses and Nursing Workers – Program Establishment and Funding*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 975.

This legislation will establish a loan assistance program for nurses and nursing workers, very similar to what currently exists in a separate program for physicians and physician assistants. In return for working in primary care in underserved areas of the State, nurses and nursing workers would be eligible for loan assistance.

The need for more primary care health professionals is unmistakable, and the COVID pandemic has made this even more clear. In addition, educational debt is a serious concern for health care workers, especially those who choose to pursue advanced degrees and training. Coupled with the fact that primary care is one of, if not, the lowest paying specialty in health care, incentives like loan assistance are critical.

MedChi has worked very hard to get the loan assistance program for physicians and physician's assistants on solid footing and is beginning to see the benefits of those efforts. We believe that establishing this program for nurses and nursing workers will produce the same results over time.

For these reasons, we ask that the Committee support House Bill 975.

**For more information call:**

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