



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

December 10, 2021

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O., Chair
Maryland Board of Physicians
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Jennifer L. Hardesty, President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Gary N. Hicks, R.N., President
Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Chair Freas, Presidents Hardesty, and Hicks:

Maryland thanks all of our health occupation boards for their meaningful and substantive assistance in our state's COVID-19 response efforts. With the recent nationwide health care workforce shortages due to COVID-19 and other factors, we ask your respective boards to help our state even further. **Maryland's hospitals need every healthcare provider possible at this time to increase our staffed hospital bed capacity.**

We ask that your respective boards, at their earliest possible opportunity, to discuss and implement strategies and operational process improvements, consistent with your statutes and regulations to:

- 1. Permit the temporary licensure of recently retired licensees; and**
- 2. Simplify or eliminate the administrative burdens for interstate compact or out-of-state health care practitioners to practice in Maryland.**

We thank the Board of Nursing for its actions at the September 22, 2021 meeting regarding COMAR 10.27.01.03 (A) (3) to allow registered nurses and licensed practical nurses with current active licenses in any state to practice in Maryland during the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Please let us know how the Maryland Department of Health can assist in streamlining and eliminating licensing administrative burdens so that we can maximize the health care professionals available to our state for at least the next six months and ensure staffed hospital bed capacity.

Please let us know your availability for a meeting(s) to discuss this subject further.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Boards Liaison, Kimberly Link, at kimberly.link@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Schrader". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary