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To: Chairman Verrelli, Vice Chair Sampson and Members of the Assembly Labor Committee

From: Althea D. Ford, NJBIA Vice President of Government Affairs
(aford@njbia.org)

Date: October 24, 2024

RE: NJBIA Testimony Supporting A-4809 (Greenwald, Verrelli) -Requires DOLWD to identify and recruit unemployed individuals for employment in health care facilities; makes appropriation.

On behalf of our member companies that make NJBIA the largest, most impactful association representing business in New Jersey, we strongly support bill A-4809 (Greenwald/Verrelli), which would require NJDOLWD to identify and recruit unemployed individuals for employment in health care facilities and makes an appropriation. Additionally, we support the amendment consideration to expand the scope of employment opportunities to include home healthcare settings.

NJBIA is proud to support this bill to address the staffing challenges facing the healthcare workforce and we thank Majority Leader Greenwald and Chair Verrelli for their continued leadership on this critical issue.

This legislation efficiently and effectively deploys the human capital and resources of the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development to engage in workforce development by connecting prospective workers to employment opportunities in an in-demand field. NJDOLWD is strategically positioned to interact with individuals seeking employment and direct them to training opportunities that can directly impact the critical workforce shortages we are experiencing in healthcare.

This legislation demonstrates one way that workforce development can truly be accomplished using our existing state infrastructure to address a very real workforce gap.

We urge the Committee's support of A-4809.

NJBIA thanks you all for consideration of our perspective on this bill. Please email me at aford@njbia.org if you have any questions about our position.