

Good afternoon Committee members. My name is Diana Riley, and I'm an Accounts Receivable Specialist for in-patient psychiatric billing at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Before this position, I was a member of 1199SEIU, working in medical billing at Prince George's Hospital Center for seven years. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 938.

At PG Hospital, we heard that there were going to be big layoffs in my department. All of us got very worried and signed up for any classes we could take through our union Training and Upgrading Fund. I took a ServSafe certification class and a CPR class.

I'm one of the lucky few who stayed in the same field. For example, one of my co-workers worked at PG Hospital for decades but had to take lower-paying work in customer service after losing her job during the layoffs.

Now that I'm no longer in the union and don't have the benefit of a Training and Upgrading fund, I worry about what would happen if Anne Arundel lays people off or even closes departments. I want to stay in healthcare, but I need the resources and time to make sure I'm trained for what's next.

That's why I urge you to vote favorably on this bill so that I, and the thousands of healthcare workers like me, can plan for our futures in this changing and important field.