



Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc.
Comprehensive Home Health Services

February 2, 2022

Testimony Opposing SB0275- Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)

On behalf of Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc., located in Baltimore County, I urge you to oppose SB0275 Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022). While we understand the financial difficulties that many individuals encounter trying to care for a sick loved one, this bill would have the effect of crippling the home care industry.

The Maryland Medicaid reimbursement rate for home health nursing is well below surrounding states leaving very little room for a reasonable pay rate after paying taxes and insurance. HB008 creates another unreasonable cost and contribution that home care agencies are already struggling to account for to provide benefits for their employees and the overhead of running a business. This bill will put agencies out of business, especially those that rely on Maryland Medicaid reimbursement.

Additionally, nurses can work for multiple agencies, and in this case, the nurse will collect payment from each employer. Also, unlike other companies, health care providers cannot operate "short-staffed." We have an obligation to our clients to be there to provide services. These services provided by home health agencies are billed as a "fee for service." Meaning that shifts must be filled and worked to get reimbursed from the insurance company. If SB0275 goes into effect, the agency will need to provide coverage while continuing to pay for the employee on leave plus pay the employee covering the shifts and the covering employee's medical leave insurance while only getting reimbursed based on the hours worked.

Therefore, I urge you to protect our clients and ensure that the home care industry can remain a viable health care service in Maryland and vote unfavorable on these bills. Thank you.

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