



**Testimony on HB0625**  
***Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis***  
***in Maryland-Establishment***  
**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Ms. Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation – representing 10,000 healthcare workers in long-term care facilities and hospitals across Maryland. Our union supports HB0625: Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland-Establishment and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report.

In a time where the healthcare workforce is damaged by the spread of COVID, it is imperative that the State establishes this commission to study causes and examine solutions to its workforce crisis. There is an ever-increasing shortage of healthcare workers, the Maryland Hospital Association recently reported that there are 3,900 open positions for nurses in the state. There are countless other openings for various employment opportunities relating to healthcare. The lack of a stable healthcare workforce causes burnout in existing employees by requiring them to cover shifts and work increasingly long hours.

In a review of studies done to assess the risk of burnout associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, 34% of nurses reported high emotional exhaustion, while 15% reported low personal accomplishment. Clearly, there are several underlying issues that healthcare workers experience which must be uncovered and addressed. It is imperative to the future of public health that a commission is established to prevent a healthcare workforce shortage in the future.

As representatives of health care workers, 1199SEIU finds it necessary that the State establish a commission to study the health care workforce crisis to improve working conditions, which will in turn improve the quality of care for Maryland residents. We at 1199SEIU ask this Committee to give a favorable report to HB0625.

Respectfully,

Ricarra Jones  
Maryland/DC Political Director  
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers- East  
Cell: [443-844-6513](tel:443-844-6513)