



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 230 - Residential Service Agencies - Employee Registry
Senate Finance Committee
February 9, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 230. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 230 requires the Maryland Department of Health to create registries of each residential service agency operating in the state. It also requires residential service agencies to submit lists of their employees to the state registry and allow labor organizations to access that information upon request.

The home health care industry is disorganized, the rate at which new companies are created, or reorganized, and others dissolved makes it impossible to keep accurate track of businesses compliance with laws and regulations. The state claims there are 1,874 residential service agencies licensed with the state. By requiring a state maintained list of residential service agencies and their employees, consumers will have more confidence in the companies that they are engaging. The Fiscal and Policy Note states that residential service agencies have an abysmal 35% compliance rate with their already required reporting to the Office of Health Care Quality. If an agency failed to submit their report they can be issued a statement of deficiency that allows the Office of Health Care Quality to work with them on a plan for corrections. Such actions can help professionalize and raise standards in this industry that serves our most vulnerable residents but often leaves patients and workers behind.

Requiring residential service agencies to list their employees disincentivizes worker misclassification. The employee registry allows home health care workers to exercise their constitutional freedom to form or join a union by granting labor organizations access to the registry.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 230.