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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0328 - FAVORABLE

Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0328 Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024

On November 11, 2019 my son was celebrating his 45th birthday with my wife and I at a local restaurant. He had a massive stroke at the table and was rushed to Frederick Health. After days in intensive care and standard care he was transferred to the long term care facility now managed by Autumn Lakes at Ballenger Creek.

Since Autumn Lakes acquired the facility from the prior management the level of care has been significantly impacted by their inability or unwillingness to properly staff their facility to maintain a high quality of care. My son often must wait over 30 minutes when buzzing for an aide to assist him. He has food allergies and the staff on the weekends, when management is not present, has sent him meals he cannot eat with foods that could cause him to suffer a severe reaction. The facility has an acting administrator who appears deaf to the complaints of both staff and patients.

In my discussions at his care conferences I have expressed dissatisfaction with the level of care he is receiving and been told that part of the challenge is a low staff level. This bill is an attempt to provide more funding to hopefully assist facilities such as Autumn Lakes to hire more and retain more of their staff. Throughout Maryland we have a nursing shortage and this bill attempts to create economic incentives for increasing the ability of facilities to recruit and train new personnel.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0328.