



Testimony on SB328
The Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Act of 2024
Position: **FAV**

To Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee,

My name is Rayshawn Carter. I am a Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) at a Long Term Care facility in Baltimore County, and a member of 1199SEIU. I have been a GNA for seven years, and have worked in Long Term Care for four years. I support SB328: The Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024, and I urge you to issue a favorable report.

GNA's care for residents by helping with their hygiene, meals, dressing, and movement. The care we provide is not "one size fits all" because each resident has different abilities and needs. Our work enables our residents to live with dignity. Unfortunately, the short staffing crisis makes patient care feel like a rush job. In my facility, we have 1 GNA per 24 residents. That ratio is not fair to workers or residents. Our residents are frustrated because they need more assistance, and we are frustrated because we want to spend more time with them but can't. Being in a constant state of frustration creates a negative impact on residents' and workers' mental health.

We have a high turnover rate in my facility so we are always working short staffed. Raising wages for long term care workers would make a big difference because earning a living wage makes it less likely that workers will quit. Raising our wages means we would retain enough staff to properly care for residents, and would improve quality of life for caregivers like me.

I am a single mother of two children, with no financial or caregiving support. I've had too many days where I come home feeling so burnt out from working short-staffed that I don't have the energy to spend as much time with my kids as I want to. Making a living wage would change all of our lives. If I got a raise, I would be able to afford a car. That would cut my commute so I could spend more time with my children, and make it easier for me to take them to extracurricular activities.

The Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024 is your opportunity to improve patient's lives, healthcare workers' lives, and our families lives. Please vote YES on SB328. Thank you.

Rayshawn Carter

667-378-0303

rayshawnc1995@gmail.com