

Honorable Finance Committee members,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the bill authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to reimburse a residential service agency for personal assistance services only if the services are provided by an individual classified as an employee. This crucial legislation not only recognizes the value of personal assistance services but also emphasizes the importance of fair employment practices within the healthcare sector.

Personal assistance services play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals who rely on them for daily activities and support. By ensuring that reimbursement is contingent on the classification of service providers as employees, the bill establishes a foundation for fair labor practices and promotes job stability within the healthcare workforce.

This legislation reflects a commitment to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of individuals who provide essential personal assistance services. By classifying these service providers as employees, the bill extends crucial employment benefits and protections, fostering a healthier and more sustainable work environment.

Moreover, this bill aligns with broader efforts to prioritize the well-being of those in need of personal assistance services while simultaneously recognizing the rights and contributions of the healthcare workforce. Other states already follow this commendable standard and promote fair labor practices. Ensuring that those who provide essential services are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Our RSA switched over our staff from contractor to employee status in 2019. It was an involved and multi-step process. However, it did not result in any undue financial hardship for our company and brought nothing but a wealth of additional benefits and stability to our staff. Employee turnover went down, and overall job satisfaction went up. In other words, it was a resounding success.

I urge you to consider the positive impact that this bill will have on both service recipients and healthcare workers in Maryland. By supporting this legislation, we can contribute to the creation of a more just and equitable healthcare system that benefits everyone involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope to see the successful passage of this bill for the betterment of our community.

Respectfully,

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