

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB197 Residential Service Agencies – Reimbursement -- Personal Assistance Services

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We strongly believe that SB197 is critically important to ensuring that we maintain and build a workforce of personal care aides that is so essential to Maryland patients as our population ages. We urge you to provide a favorable report.

The caregiver workforce continues to decline in alarming numbers, leaving many vulnerable patients without the help they need. It is very difficult for patients to have a revolving group of caregivers while those workers, understandably, seek better employment situations. That is why it is vital to ensure that this important workforce is treated fairly and attracts qualified and caring workers.

Basically, SB197 will ensure that personal care aides who work under certain Medicaid programs are properly classified as employees, rather than as independent contractors. The current misclassification of thousands of these essential workers has created harm by cutting workers out of ready access to benefits and imposing a higher self-employment tax burden.

The bill would address the misclassification problem by requiring that the Maryland Department of Health only reimburse Residential Service Agencies for in-home personal care under certain Medicaid waiver programs if the personal care aides are properly classified as employees.

Personal care aides have been treated as marginalized workers for too long. Please provide a favorable report on SB197, and support Maryland caregivers and their patients.

Thank you,

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