

Testimony for SB 197

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Vivian Boone and I am a home care worker in Baltimore City. As someone with over 35 years of experience caring for the state's most vulnerable and being underpaid as a misclassified worker, I support HB 39 to ensure the end of illegal misclassification of home care workers. Home care workers need more support and protection.

Many of us do not even know that we are misclassified until we start sharing our experiences of not getting paid overtime or for the time we spend commuting between homes. I have to work two jobs just to make ends meet. Because of low pay and poor benefits, many of my colleagues leave the field for more stable, less stressful jobs. The patients I take care of need a great deal of support and I can't imagine what would happen to them if they were not able to find a home care worker to take care of them. By preventing worker misclassification, this legislation would reduce turnover and improve the quality of care.

I work hard for my money, but I am not getting what I work for. It hurts me, my family, my home. I work to pay my bills but when my agency misclassifies me. I work weekly to pay for my monthly bills and I still can't meet it. It's hard to make ends meet when we are not compensated justly.

This is a widespread issue, and it needs to be prevented. The state's public dollars are being used by agencies who are breaking the law and undercutting their staff.

Our governor, Wes Moore, said that no one will get left behind. Home care workers continue to be left behind because of lack of state oversight. We call on this committee to stand with home care workers. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 197.

Sincerely,

Vivian Boone

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