



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0328
FUNDING FOR WAGES AND BENEFITS FOR NURSING HOME WORKERS
(NURSING HOME STAFFING CRISIS FUNDING ACT OF 2024)**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Rosapepe

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0328 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Nursing Homes generally receive little notice from the public except during the pandemic, when it was clear that they were understaffed and generally did not have the procedures in place to deal with a contagious virus effectively. Since then, they have gone back to being almost invisible. However, the problems that were on display during the pandemic have not gone away. There is a staffing crisis at nursing homes across the state that is leaving our elderly, and those who are least able to care for themselves in a system that provides inadequate care. These are our grandparents and parents. For those who wind up in a nursing home and are entirely dependent on someone else for their care, and that person is too busy to care for them, their life becomes hellish.

We need to SEE this problem and try to solve it. This bill, if enacted, would provide a greater monetary infusion into nursing homes that they can then translate to additional staff. The infusion comes from an 8% higher reimbursement rate from the state and carries some reporting requirements to ensure that the additional monies are used appropriately.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.