

Bill Title: HB 905 - Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment
(Safe Staffing Act of 2025)

Position: FAVORABLE

To: Senate Finance Committee

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

Maryland is experiencing a crisis of understaffing, retention of staff, and worsening quality of care in hospitals. Marylanders have experienced the longest wait times in US Emergency Rooms (ERs) for the past nine years. I strongly urge you to support HB905. This can't wait. Please vote on this critical legislation next week.

A few years ago, I took my adult son to the Montgomery General Hospital ER with pain in his mid- and right upper abdomen. After waiting for over 6 hours to be seen, the ER staff diagnosed gastritis, refused to order an ultrasound to rule out gall bladder infection, and discharged him. Thirty hours later, the surgeon at a Washington, DC hospital, who had just completed the emergency operation to remove my son's infected gall bladder, told me that a gall stone had become stuck and obstructed the outlet from his gall bladder. The surgeon said that part of the gall bladder wall was gangrenous would have burst if left much longer.

The failure in care my son experienced is, unfortunately, not isolated. The worsening quality of care results in harm to patients and greater healthcare costs. It is critical that this burgeoning crisis be urgently addressed, and HB905 would be an important starting point in achieving adequate staffing levels with higher retention of experienced, competent staff.

Staff members at every level of the hospital play an important role in the timeliness and quality of care patients receive, and it is vital that workers at every level are included in the hospital staffing committees. High retention of staff requires that working conditions be optimized and that workers at every level are full members of the hospital staffing committees and able to provide input on how conditions should be improved.

If successfully implemented with workers at every level providing input and contributing to staffing plans and working conditions, HB905 could do much to alleviate this crisis. The quality of care would be improved, thus reducing medical complications, death, and the resultant additional healthcare costs due to poor care.

I respectfully urge this Committee to vote to fully support House Bill 905.

Sincerely,
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