



February 17, 2025

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for HB933, “Nursing Homes – Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports”

Dear Delegate Pena-Melnyk,

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Commission for Women, I am writing to express our strong support for **HB933, titled “Nursing Homes – Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports”**, which is currently under consideration in the House Health and Government Operations Committee. As a commission dedicated to advocating for the well-being, rights, and advancement of women and families in our community, we recognize the critical importance of this legislation seeking to address the issue of ensuring that nursing homes allocate a portion of their revenue towards direct care wages and benefits.

HB933 aims to ensure that nursing homes allocate at least 75% of their total nursing and residential care revenue towards direct care wages and benefits. The bill requires nursing homes to submit a cost report documenting wage disbursement to the Maryland Department of Health. By passing this bill, the quality of care in nursing homes would improve, caregivers would receive fair compensation, and a more stable and dedicated workforce would be promoted, ultimately enhancing the well-being of residents and their families.

Ninety percent (90%) of residential long-term care workers are women, and thirty-six percent (36%) of these healthcare workers have a child below the age of 18. In Maryland, the average hourly wage is \$15.43 for nursing assistants in skilled nursing facilities, while in DC, it is one of the highest in the country at \$18.43. Many are leaving long-term care to earn more in other industries. The median annual turnover rate is at 51.2%. Many direct care staff, including custodial services, dietary aides, CNAs, and GNAs, are working at multiple long-term care facilities to earn more money. Staffing shortages are expected to grow as workers find better pay in other industries. Short staffing has caused high-need nursing home residents to be left unattended in substandard conditions.

The Anne Arundel County Commission for Women is dedicated to fostering equity and opportunity, and we believe that HB933 aligns with these principles. Enacting this legislation would allow the Maryland Legislature to improve nursing home care, ensure fair wages for caregivers, and promote workforce stability. This would not only enhance the well-being of residents and their families but also promote economic security for those working in the caregiving sector. We urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and champion its passage. Your leadership on this issue will make a meaningful difference in the lives of women and families throughout Anne Arundel County and across Maryland.



Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information or testimony in support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Stacie Spragins

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