



**MEMBERS**

*Molly Wisniewski, Chair*  
*Trina Townsend*  
*Yetunde Olobatuyi*  
*Mary Anne Kane-Breschi*  
*Isabella Guyott*  
*Jennifer Eastman*  
*Katherine Wehr*  
*Theresa Robertson*  
*Patricia Morris*  
*Shari Bailey*  
*Dawnita Brown*  
*Julia Abate*  
*An'Dria Chavia*  
*Delegate Jamilia Woods*  
*Greg Seseck*

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Chair, Health Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 624 - Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans Establishment**

Dear Madam Chair,

The Maryland Commission on Caregiving is pleased to submit this letter of favorable support for House Bill 624 – Hospitals – Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026). This bill will strengthen hospital staffing practices by requiring clinical staffing committees and formal staffing plans, helping ensure safe and consistent care delivery.

Serving as the “voice of the Maryland family caregiver,” the Maryland Commission on Caregiving (“Commission”) is charged with recommending policies that positively impact family caregivers, soliciting and responding to their concerns, and acknowledging their contributions. In Maryland, more than 1.1 million residents serve as unpaid family caregivers, many of whom are actively involved in hospital settings during a loved one’s admission and stay.

When hospitals experience staffing shortages, family caregivers are frequently relied upon to step in — assisting with care coordination, patient monitoring, communication, and basic care tasks — often without training or support. These gaps can increase caregiver stress and shift responsibility away from appropriately staffed clinical teams.

Considering this, the Commission strongly supports efforts to improve hospital staffing stability and accountability. Establishing clear, collaborative staffing plans will help reduce the unintended reliance on family caregivers to compensate for workforce shortages, while improving patient safety and care quality.

The Commission works to ensure caregivers across the lifespan are equipped with the resources needed to provide safe care to their loved ones. HB624 supports this goal by strengthening the clinical workforce and creating hospital environments that better support both professional and family caregivers.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Commission on Caregiving