



Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc.

Comprehensive Home Health Services

February 27, 2020

Testimony OPPOSING OF HB 152/CF SB 192-Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020

Dear House,

I would like to thank you for allowing me to voice my opposition and concerns for House Bill 152 that would cause a reduction in the mandatory rate increase from 4% to 2% for Medicaid providers.

I am Dr. Mark Bayne, and I have been a Registered Nurse in the State of Maryland for 43 years. I am the co-owner of Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc. which I started over 31 years ago.

Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc. is a licensed Residential Service Agency. For the past decade, I have been fighting for a Medicaid rate increase. In 2018 as a result of HB 1696, a Task Force was formed to research Service Delivery and Reimbursement Data. It was at that time it was discovered that the State of Maryland Medicaid reimbursement rate was on average 24% less than surrounding states. In 2019 the General Assembly recognized the insufficiency of the current funding provided by Medicaid and instructed the Maryland Department of Health to develop a detailed 5-year plan to address the underfunding of homecare services. This 4% mandate was part of that detailed plan but currently, Maryland still falls short:

- West Virginia: \$44.08
- Pennsylvania: \$44.08 for adults/\$45.00 for pediatric
- Delaware: \$46.14
- District of Columbia: \$50.00
- Maryland: \$36.24

I have also provided you a graph to illustrate the current reimbursement rate versus if a 3% cost of living increase was given every year. Please take note that between 2006 and 2012, there was no increase given and in 2011, we were issued a decrease in reimbursement.

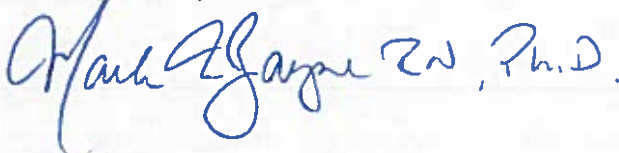


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8817 Belair Road | Suite 203 | Baltimore, MD | 21236-2446
410.529.0078 | Fax 410.529.4511 | www.comp nursing.com

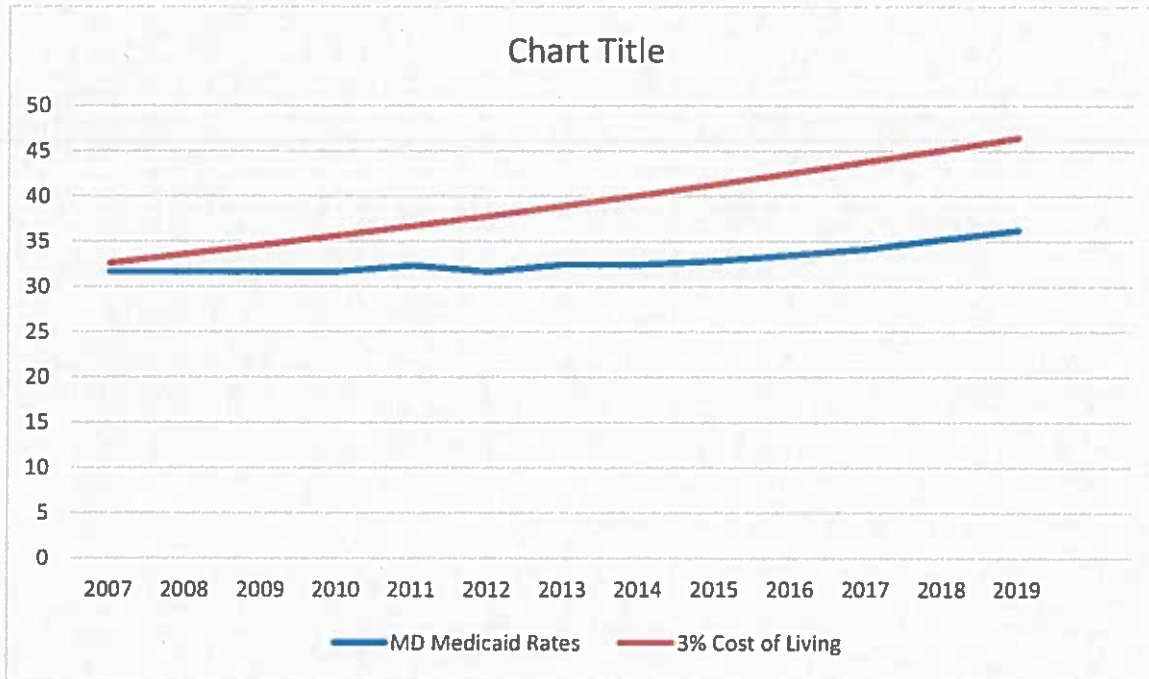
Currently, the nursing industry is experiencing a national shortage. Homecare services struggle to retain quality nurses because agencies compete with hospitals due to the less than par reimbursement rate. Homecare is by far less expensive than hospital care, but hospitals can offer a more competitive salary and benefits package. There has been an increase in demand and technology for in-home care services and the current reimbursement rate leaves a gap in being able to provide quality nursing. Reducing the mandated 4% to 2% would cause a decrease in staff retention as professionals would seek employment in nearby states which results in lost Maryland revenue. As agencies are unable to provide nursing care, families are left to be caregivers restricting them from their employment. Patients also have shown an increase in hospitalizations due to the lack of support.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Bayne RN, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark Bayne, RN. PhD
Director of Nursing Services
Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc
8817 Belair Road, Suite 203
Baltimore, Maryland 21236-2446
Tel-410.529.0078
Fax-410.5295019

Year	Maryland Medicaid Rates	3% Cost of Living
2006	\$31.64	
2007	\$31.64	\$32.59
2008	\$31.64	\$33.57
2009	\$31.64	\$34.57
2010	\$31.64	\$35.61
2011	\$31.32	\$36.68
2012	\$31.64	\$37.78
2013	\$32.44	\$38.91
2014	\$32.44	\$40.08
2015	\$32.84	\$41.28
2016	\$33.48	\$42.52
2017	\$34.16	\$43.80
2018	\$35.20	\$45.11
2019	\$36.24	\$46.46



Maryland Medicaid Rates

2006-\$31.64
2008-\$31.64
2011-\$31.32 (Decrease \$.32)
2012-\$31.64 (Increased back to old rate)
2013-\$32.44 (Increase \$.80)
2014-\$32.44 (Stayed the same)
2015-\$32.84 (Increased \$.40)
2016-\$33.48
2017-\$34.16
2018-\$35.20
2019-\$36.24

If a 3% cost of living increase was given, this is where we would be:

2006-\$31.64
2007-\$32.59
2008-\$33.57
2009-\$34.57
2010-\$35.61
2011-\$36.68
2012-\$37.78
2013-\$38.91
2014-\$40.08
2015-\$41.28
2016-\$42.52
2017-\$43.80
2018-\$45.11
2019-\$46.46