



January 21, 2021

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair
Senate Finance Committee,
3 East
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 307 – *Labor and Employment – Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program*

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing us to submit comments on this very important subject. The Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA) is a trade association representing Home Health, Home Care, and Durable Medical Equipment agencies across Maryland. These providers include those who deliver services to Medicaid recipients across the entire State. MNCHA is in strong support of Senate Bill 307, which establishes a Direct Care Innovation Program in the Department of Labor whose purpose is to provide matching grants to eligible entities to create and expand on successful recruitment and retention strategies that address the range of potential barriers to increasing the number of direct care workers.

MNCHA members rely on the care provided by personal care aides and certified nursing assistants. Because of Maryland's increasing senior population, there is a growing need for home care services, which then increases the demand for direct care workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has only strengthened the need to bolster Maryland's direct care workforce, especially given that many more individuals are seeking care in home environments rather than in other settings. While Senate Bill 307 is not a solution to Maryland's need to develop a more robust direct care workforce, it is an essential piece of legislation that is needed to build Maryland's workforce to begin to ensure that the needs of Marylanders can be met in the upcoming years.

We thank the sponsor, and we thank the Committee for its consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dawn E. Seek'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawn E. Seek
Executive Director
MNCHA