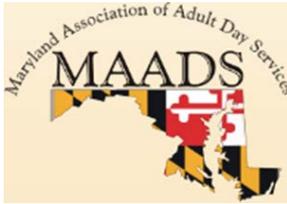




Hospice & Palliative Care Network  
OF MARYLAND



TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Johnny Ray Salling

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 9, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 64 – *Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19*

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On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services (MAADS), the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland (HPCNM), and the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA), we support Senate Bill 64, which states that the Secretary of Labor must waive the charge of benefits paid to a claimant during the State of Emergency declared by the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic against the earned rating record of an employing unit.

But for the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses would not have been put in a position that required them to lay off their workforce. For example, the medical adult day care centers were closed by Executive Order on March 18, 2020. They have remained closed. Many centers tried desperately to maintain their full workforce but were unable to do so directly due to the mandatory closure. Another unfortunate reality of the pandemic was that many, including those working in health care, voluntarily left employment but still received unemployment benefits. The members of LifeSpan, MAADS, HPCNM and MNCHA have spent thousands in unbudgeted costs for personal protective equipment, environmental modifications to buildings, hazard pay and COVID-19 surveillance testing costs. Senate Bill 64 will provide future economic relief and avoid higher costs on employers for a situation which, for all practical purposes, was out of their control.

We urge a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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