



Testimony on HB936
Hospitals and Freestanding Medical Facilities - Closing or Partial Closing - Public Notice
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199SEIU- the largest healthcare union in the nation, where we represent over 10,000 healthcare workers in Maryland. Due to the fact that thousands of Marylanders rely on medical facilities for their daily, unique, and severe medical needs, we are supportive of HB936- Hospitals and Freestanding Medical Facilities - Closing or Partial Closing - Public Notice.

For these reasons, we understand the need for medical facilities and moreover find this legislation vital to keep current and future patients aware of any major changes that a facility will undergo, especially a closing. If enacted, this legislation would allow patrons of medical facilities to know in advance that a facility will be closing and moreover, be able to find resources related to this closing if needed. For many of these patrons, this is vital in making sure their medical affairs are in order to ensure that they receive proper future care.

For our members, this legislation is just as important because it allows them to become aware and better prepared for any changes they need to make, such as job relocation and overall future job security. At the core, healthcare workers and all others who work in medical facilities rely on financial security from their jobs and as such, deserve to be notified of any closing or partial closing that impacts their employment. If enacted, this bill will also allow healthcare workers to be notified of any public meetings where the opportunity to voice their concerns and opposition to the closing could be made available. Equally important, workers will also learn about the plan to relocate displaced employees and the timeline for which all of this will occur.

For these reasons, we ask this Committee to please provide a favorable report on HB936.

Respectfully,

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