

Marylanders for Patient Rights

Marylanders for Patient Rights – FAVORABLE HB 652

Feb. 16, 2021

Chair Shane Pendergrass
House Health & Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

On behalf of Marylanders for Patient Rights, a patient advocacy organization, I am writing in **SUPPORT OF HB 652**, Residential Service Agencies – Guidance and Reporting. This commonsense bill will help Maryland's 30,000 personal care aides who have been among the most at-risk frontline workers as the pandemic raged through our elderly population. This workforce is too often marginalized, despite the critical role it plays in caring for our elderly family members and friends.

The bill, which focuses on guidance and reporting for Residential Service Agencies (RSAs), will help to protect workers and improve existing law by increasing transparency and improving the quality of data collection. First, the bill will help to educate RSAs by creating a short guidance document which will be required reading for RSAs prior to obtaining or renewing a license. Second, for Medicaid-funded work only, two additional items of data will be added to existing tracking: employment classification and pay rate. This will help the state to better track a vulnerable workforce population and to ensure transparency.

I urge your committee to return a FAVORABLE report on HB 652 and to support our personal care aides who play such a vital role in protecting the elderly and disabled in Maryland.

Thank you,

Anna Palmisano

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