



Testimony on HB1350
Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is David Saucedo. I'm a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Our union has 10,000 members in Maryland & Washington DC. I'm a healthcare worker at a Long-Term Care facility in Baltimore City. I support HB1350: Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers. My fellow union members and I request the Committee issue a **favorable** report on this bill.

My coworkers and I are overworked and underpaid. Even though my workload has doubled due to short staffing, my wages have stayed the same. It is not fair to do twice the work for the same pay. That is why so many of my coworkers are quitting. When my coworkers quit, it increases my workload even more, so the problem keeps getting worse and worse. If we earned higher wages, more healthcare workers would stay working at our facility and more new healthcare workers would want to join our staff.

Short staffing has gotten so bad in my facility that even some of my coworkers who are pregnant are still being required to do things like lift heavy boxes even though they aren't supposed to do that. It's not right that healthcare workers are being forced to put our own health on the line when we do our jobs. **We need more people to start and stay working in Long-Term Care facilities, and the most important step we can take right now is to raise wages for healthcare workers like me.** Please vote yes on HB1350.

Sincerely,

David Saucedo
Member, 1199SEIU
Baltimore City Resident