



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 Holly Ward. I am a healthcare worker at a Long-Term Care facility in Baltimore, and a member of 1199SEIU. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the United States, with over 10,000 healthcare workers in Maryland and Washington DC. Our union supports HB1350: Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers and asks for a **favorable** report on this legislation.

My coworkers and I have been working on the frontlines of COVID19 since day one of the pandemic. Our hard work and sacrifices are not reflected in the wages we currently earn. Low wages are making the short staffing crisis in Long Term Care facilities even worse. **When we are short staffed, treating patients becomes like working on an assembly line, so we are not able to give the high-quality care our patients deserve.** Raising wages will help recruit and retain healthcare workers we desperately need to reduce the short staffing crisis. Proper staffing will reduce burnout of healthcare workers and allow us to spend more time with our patients.

Healthcare workers get into this line of work because we care about people. Management is exploiting our passion for providing care by underpaying us and expecting us to keep working for low wages. That is why we need the legislature to pass this bill. Paying healthcare workers what we are worth will us the dignity & respect we deserve. Everyone keeps calling us heroes, but we are being paid like we are zeroes! Please vote yes on HB1350.

Sincerely,
Holly Ward
Member, 1199SEIU UHW E.
Baltimore City Resident