

# KARE

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Chair Shane Pendergrass  
425 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Balden Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: [Maryland House Bill 1208](#)

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

On behalf of [KARE](#), it is my pleasure to present this letter in support of [Maryland House Bill 1208](#) (Health Occupations – Health Workforce Expansion).

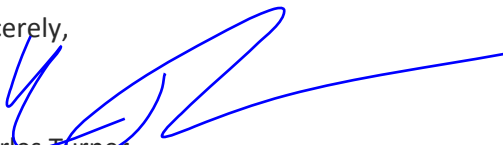
[KARE](#) is the first labor marketplace dedicated solely to the senior housing and post-acute industry. It connects qualified caregivers and nurses with senior care communities and nursing homes. The KARE application platform offers a means for caregivers to create a flexible schedule that works for them, and it gives communities the ability to quickly fill open shifts and hire full time employees at no charge, delivering a revolutionary approach to solving staffing challenges.

Long-term care facilities have been facing staffing shortages for years, and that is what spurred my co-founder and I to launch KARE. However, the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated these problems to a critical level. According to [data](#) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment levels in the entire long term care sector including nursing homes and assisted living communities are at a 15-year low, and the industry has lost more than 400,000 employees. Nursing homes have lost 238,000 caregivers over the course of the pandemic, more than any other health care sector. This equates to a loss of 15 percent of the total workforce since the start of the pandemic.

To assist with the workforce shortages, some state officials have recently called in reinforcements to help alleviate the situation. Utah, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York all deployed the [National Guard](#) to help short-staffed nursing homes. It is important to note these reinforcements are only temporary and, without comprehensive and sustained interventions, will not provide a fix to the complex problems and needs.

For these reasons, it is imperative for the state of Maryland to take action and why we appreciate your support of [Maryland House Bill 1208](#). It will be an important step to galvanize the workforce within long-term care facilities.

Sincerely,



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