

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB600

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We strongly believe that SB600 is vitally important to the health and well-being of patients and their caregivers, and we urge you to provide a favorable report.

The caregiver workforce continues to dwindle in number, leaving many vulnerable patients without the help they need. It is very difficult for patients to have a revolving group of caregivers while those workers, understandably, seek better employment situations. That is why it is critical to gather the necessary data to help us understand how to reduce turnover and attract more workers to the field. The reporting required by SB600 will allow the state to do an informed analysis of caregiver employment pay and status.

The data to be collected as per the amended bill are very basic and easy to provide by the Residential Service Agencies (RSAs): The personal care aide's hourly pay rate and employment classification.

The provision of these data by the RSA will only require a modest amount of time, yet it will yield vital information to the Maryland Department of Health for data-driven policy development. Confidentiality can be readily maintained by publication of aggregate (not individual) data on RSA's pay rates. SB600 will allow the Department of Health to do an annual report on reimbursement rates and issues related to maintaining the caregiver workforce.

You will note that this version of the bill includes amendments that improve the bill and address the majority of concerns raised by industry. In order for the Maryland Department of Health to do a study on how to better structure rate-setting policies, data must be gathered to ascertain how much RSA's are paying workers and how they are classifying workers. This vital information will facilitate informed, data-driven policy to address the personal care workforce crisis.

Please provide a favorable report on SB600, and support Maryland caregivers.

Thank you,

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