

Testimony for SB 604

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Griffith and members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Vivian Boone. I live in Baltimore City and I have been a home care worker for 35 years. This work is deeply personal and intimate. You get to know your client up close and personal and they become like family.

When the pandemic hit us, everyone saw how broken our healthcare system was. But it was us who had to keep working through the brokenness. CNAs, GNAs were pulled to face this battle. Many took their loved ones out of the nursing homes during that time to be cared for at home. We came in to your homes, assisted with daily activities, meals, medication, and provided support during a challenging time.

Our clients all have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. At some point in our lives, we will need some sort of care through nursing homes, hospital, or assisted living. In that time, all you will wish is for a reliable and support care workforce.

Without an increase in pay, I feel like my job, my worth has no value in this society. We are 3 years after the start of this pandemic and home care workers are completely left behind. We have a new governor in office that says no will get left behind. So I urge you legislators to vote favorably for a common sense bill that raises wages for home care workers.

Caregivers are the backbone of this economy. It's long overdue for the state to invest in us, care workers, and ensure we are getting adequately paid. Because care can't wait, I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB 604.

Sincerely,

Vivian Boone

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