

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB725: Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Community First Choice Program - Reimbursement of Service Providers

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We are proud members of the Caring Across Maryland coalition--- a broad coalition of patients, loved ones, care workers, and advocates all of whom are impacted by our broken long term care system.

Marylanders for Patient Rights strongly believes that HB725 is critically important to ensuring that we build and maintain a workforce of professional caregivers by providing them with a well-earned livable wage. Researchers from Leading Age and others have found that creating living wage requirements for direct care workers would help to relieve staffing shortages and lower turnover rates, thus improving quality of patient care. ¹

As our population ages, the caregiver workforce continues to decline in alarming numbers, leaving many vulnerable patients without the help they need. It is very difficult and stressful for patients and their families to have a revolving group of caregivers while those workers, understandably, seek better employment situations. It is vitally important to ensure that this essential workforce is treated fairly and attracts qualified and caring employees.

Medical provider workers have been marginalized for too long. Maryland needs to increase provider reimbursement rates and ensure the increase is reflected in the wages of direct care workers. Please provide a favorable report on HB725, and support Maryland caregivers and their patients.

Thank you,

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¹ Leading Age, Making Care Work Pay Report, 2020