

---

BILL NO: House Bill 725  
TITLE: Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program,  
and Community First Choice Program - Reimbursement of Service Providers  
COMMITTEE: Health & Government Operations  
HEARING DATE: March 7, 2023  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

---

House Bill 725 seeks to increase funding for nursing home workers by increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate from 4% to 10% – and ensuring the increase goes directly towards wages and benefits – is the most direct way to improve job quality, recruitment, and retention. As our nation faces an on-going crisis of care, derived from the pandemic, staffing shortages, and an increasingly aging population, anything we can do to address these issues will benefit Maryland workers and Maryland families.

Direct care pay has historically remained low due to multiple factors, including under-investment in long-term care services and intersecting legacies of sexism, racism, and xenophobia that undervalue caregiving work and those who provide it. The Maryland Medicaid Wage Pass-through Act would increase Medicaid medical care provider reimbursement rates and allow the increase to be specifically designated for worker wages and benefits.

HB 725 seeks to address the shortage of nursing assistants and the abysmal wages those employees currently earn, which in turn will support Maryland families and enable continued economic security for women in Maryland. As such, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges a favorable report on House Bill 725.

**The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.**