

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB328 Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers

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 SB328 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 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 and benefits of care workers. Please provide a favorable report on SB328, and support Maryland care workers and their patients.

Thank you,

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¹ Leading Age, Making Care Work Pay Report, 2020