



**Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association**  
**The Voice of Continuing Care Residents**

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 371 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Livable Wage Act of 2024)

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance Committee, The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal mission of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and to create and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

**On behalf of Maryland Continuing Care Residents, we support Senate Bill 371.** The Homecare Workers Livable Wage Act of 2024 does two things. First, for personal care aides who work for home care agencies (called “residential service agencies”—RSAs—by Maryland’s Health Code) under certain Medicaid programs, RSAs will report to the state workers’ average, highest, and lowest pay rates. Second, the Maryland Department of Health must update its analysis of Medicaid reimbursement rates every two years (the last such analysis was done in 2018) and must factor in the need to improve workers’ wages and benefits.

SB371 reflects the findings of the just-released [final report of Maryland’s Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis](#) and would advance several of the report’s recommendations. This comprehensive report is clear and identifies the challenges that need to be addressed.

Maryland lacks data on home care workers’ pay rates—information policymakers need to solve the home care workforce crisis. There is a homecare crisis that just living in a CCRC does not solve. Some of our residents need help in maintaining their independent living status. Others need additional health care assistance in Assisted Living, Memory Care and Skilled Nursing communities. Data on pay rates will help us understand the necessity of adequate compensation for the demanding role a Homecare Worker plays in the maintenance of effective and engaged, as far as possible, living.

Maryland needs regular, up-to-date Medicaid reimbursement rate studies to ensure that our state’s Medicaid reimbursement rates allow for direct care workers to be paid competitive wages.

**MaCCRA supports SB371 and urges a FAVORABLE report.**

Should you have any questions, contact Bruce Hartung, MaCCRA President, [brucehartung@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucehartung@sbcglobal.net).