



Testimony in support of:
SB 202/HB 32
Family Caregiver Tax Credit

Dear Chair Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means committee:

1199 SEIU is a proud partner of the Caring Across Maryland coalition which consists of direct care workers, patients, loved ones, and advocates who are committed to improving the long term care infrastructure in Maryland through bolstering job quality for care workers, protecting quality of care, and increasing access to affordable long term care. We understand that family caregivers are holding up a broken long term care system that has failed to invest care workers and uphold quality of care. This legislation strengthens our care infrastructure by giving Maryland families the support and financial relief they deserve.

Many of 1199 SEIU members who work at nursing homes and hospitals across the state know what it's like to juggle their paid jobs as care workers with unpaid work of being a family caregiver to a loved one. The physical and emotional toll often pushes them to burnout and to leave their jobs entirely. Caregivers save Maryland taxpayers countless dollars that would otherwise be spent on caring for individuals in need of special, daily assistance.

Caregivers allow their older parents, spouses, or other loved ones to live independently instead of being forced into nursing homes. These dedicated family caregivers provide \$600 billion worth of unpaid labor each year—managing medications, preparing meals, helping with bathing, feeding, and dressing, providing transportation to medical appointments, and handling financial and legal matters.

It's time for Maryland to prioritize the care agenda and support family caregivers. We urge a favorable report on HB 32.

Sincerely,

Loraine Arikat
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