



SB 720

The Safe Staffing Act of 2025

Before the Senate Finance Committee

March 4, 2025

Position: **FAVORABLE**

The Patient Worker Collaborative is a new coalition of patients and their family members, healthcare workers, and community partners working to pass the Safe Staffing Act of 2025 in the Maryland General Assembly. Collectively, our coalition represents over 1 million Marylanders who are concerned about and affected by the hospital short staffing crisis. This legislation has broad support from patients, physicians of MedChi, emergency responders of the Black Chief Officers Committee, NAACP, Marylanders for Patient Rights, 1199SEIU, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, and all the organizations listed below.

Many Maryland hospitals face critical staffing shortages, leading to high staff turnover and burnout, longer emergency room wait times, and reduced quality of care. Research shows that staffing challenges cause not only emergency room wait but also delay in care leading to poor outcomes.

Maryland patients need the Safe Staffing Act of 2025 to address the staffing crisis. Here's how it benefits patients and care workers:

- **Improves the quality** of patient care, working conditions for the care team, and **reduces ER wait times**.
- **Fosters collaboration** between care workers, employers, and patients.
- **Collects and shares data** on worker retention, challenges, and outcomes of staffing strategies.
- **Enhances recruitment and retention** of healthcare workers.

We urge the committee to vote YES on SB 720 and support better patient outcomes and healthcare workers !

