



Testimony on HB905/SB720
The Safe Staffing Act of 2025
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiesha Everett, and I work as a Geriatric Nursing Assistant at a hospital in Maryland. I'm also a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Today, I'm asking you to issue a favorable report on HB905/SB720: Safe Staffing Act of 2025.

I've worked as a GNA for thirteen years, and in recent years short staffing has become a much bigger problem than it was when I started in this line of work. I quit my last job at a different hospital because short staffing made it impossible for me to do my job effectively.

The first few weeks of my current job were better, but sure enough, I'm working short again. Recently, I was the only GNA assigned to 22 patients in the psychiatric unit. I'm a "float", which means that I work across multiple units. There should never be 22 patients to one GNA in any circumstance.

When I work short staffed, I don't have enough time to give to each resident. But at the same time, taking a longer time to get to a resident creates a cycle in which I have to spend more time in each resident's room because their needs pile up. A ten-minute visit might become a 25-minute visit. This also means that I'm eating lunch at 3 pm on some days or putting off going to the bathroom myself.

A lot of people don't want to work this job because the pay is unacceptable. If you pay, then we will show up. But it's not right to ask someone to give residents baths and showers and ensure that they eat while offering them \$16 an hour. It leaves a lot of people fed up and questioning why they shouldn't quit GNA work entirely.

I support this bill because having safe staffing committees at hospitals will allow workers to make their voices heard. Management needs to be fair and listen to us when we explain what we need to succeed at work. Please vote YES on this bill so we can end the short staffing crisis.

In Unity,

Kiesha Everett