

Urging a favorable report for SB720 , the Safe Staffing Act of 2025

I am writing today to urge passage of SB720, the Safe Staffing Act of 2025.

I am a long time MD resident and a former health researcher. I am currently a Unitarian Universalist minister.

I have recently experienced an oddly long visit to the ER at Shady Grove Adventist. On February 11 of this year my GP called to tell me that a routine lab result was worrisome. She told me to go to the ER and that she would have a fax awaiting me at the ER explaining the situation and requesting IV fluids. I got there at about 11:30 on a Tuesday. I was released close to 6 hours later having gotten the redo of the lab work (and results) and the IV fluids and I got an xray, which determined that I had walking pneumonia. Even the docs were apologizing for slow turnaround on my visit. I am grateful for the ER team discovering my pneumonia. And it was a very long visit for a mid-day low traffic time of day. Maryland can do better.

Had HB905 been in place, my experience would have been quite different:

- Because the Safe Staffing Bill will establish safe staffing committees comprised of direct care workers and others at each hospital the portion of the delay in my experience would be minimized.
- Adventist's staffing committee would have developed a clinical staffing plan would have established guidelines for appropriate staffing, based on the number of patients and their acuity.

We can do better!

Rev. Dr. Alex Fraser

503 Mannakee St. Rockville MD 20850