



Building a Just Society

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HB1478: Public Health - Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers

Senate Finance Committee, March 25, 2025

Position: FAVORABLE

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Workplace Justice Project works to expand and enforce the right of low-wage workers to receive an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. **The PJC supports HB1478, which would study Maryland's ability to create a directory for home care workers in Maryland.**

Many home care workers struggle with job insecurity and insufficient hours. When their clients need to go to the hospital, direct care workers may be out of job for an indefinite period of time. Meanwhile, consumers often struggle to find staff to fill their home and community-based service hours. HB1478 will benefit both consumers and workers by determining whether Maryland can create a database that helps consumers find home care workers who meet their needs, similar to the database that Howard County maintains.¹

This database could provide information about which workers are fluent in languages other than English. There are approximately 44,983 Marylanders over age 65 who speak Spanish, and 108,644 Marylanders over 65 who speak languages other than English and Spanish.² About one-third of Maryland's direct care workforce are immigrants,³ and can help meet the needs of consumers who speak languages other than English, if those workers and consumers could find each other. HB1478 would lay the foundation to give consumers another tool to find adequate care and to help home care workers obtain more consistent employment.

For these reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS HB1478** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Should you have any questions, please call Sam Williamson at 410-625-9409 ext. 234.

¹ Howard County Office of Aging & Independence, *Home Care Partner Registry – Individual* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Home%20Care%20Individual%20List%20updated%201-2025.pdf>.

² U.S. Census Bureau, *C16007 Age by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over*, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2023.C16007?q=Maryland&t=Age+and+Sex:Language+Spoken+at+Home>.

³ PHI, *Research Brief: Immigrants and the Direct Care Workforce* (June 2017), p.13 https://www.phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/immigrants_and_the_direct_care_workforce_-_phi_-_june_2017.pdf.