



Testimony - Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment
(Safe Staffing Act of 2025)

Favorable

Senate Finance

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Honorable Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee:

We at SEIU Local 500, represent over 23,000 workers in Maryland. We wish to express our strong support of Senate Bill 720, the Safe Staffing Act of 2025. This bill is essential to ensuring that Maryland hospitals provide timely and effective care by establishing clinical staffing committees and requiring hospitals to implement clear, evidence-based staffing plans.

Rather than dive into the merits of the bill on the basis of public policy, conveying a personal experience will better underscore the urgent need for this legislation. Not long ago, my pregnant wife and I spent over 16 hours waiting in a Maryland emergency room before receiving the care we desperately needed. We arrived in distress, seeking medical attention, but the overwhelming shortage of staff left us sitting in uncertainty and fear. I watched as exhausted nurses and hospital staff stretched themselves impossibly thin, trying to care for too many patients at once. While they did their best, it was clear that the system was failing—not just us, but the hardworking healthcare professionals who were unable to keep up with the demand.

No patient, especially those in urgent medical situations, should have to endure such prolonged waiting times due to staffing shortages. And, no healthcare worker should have to operate under conditions that compromise their ability to provide safe, effective care. Senate Bill 720 offers a proactive solution by ensuring that hospitals maintain appropriate staffing levels based on patient needs. By requiring hospitals to develop and implement clinical staffing plans, this legislation will improve patient care, reduce wait times, and support the healthcare professionals who are the backbone of our medical system.

We urge this committee to pass SB 720 with a favorable report and take a critical step toward improving hospital conditions for both patients and providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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