



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 905 - Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2025)

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights, well-being, and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of MaCCRA, we support House Bill 905. We understand there are differing viewpoints on the components of the bill, however we see potential for benefits to patients in Maryland. There are longstanding concerns with Emergency Department wait times, overall hospital staffing and lack of fair payment and reimbursement for healthcare providers that is exacerbating staffing. Lack of staffing quickly translates into loss of access to care and lengthy wait times. Efforts to measure and better understand staffing needs can only benefit patients as they help identify specific clinical areas on which hospitals can focus and develop specific actions and policies that will improve staff levels and therefore improve care to Maryland residents. Doing this kind of a study makes it possible for the voices of front-line staff to be heard, as they are likely to have important input and suggestions to make concerning these challenges that they see every day.

We ask the committee to take favorable action on House Bill 905. The challenges our health care system faces are significant. This is a time to take aggressive action to meet the challenges. House Bill 905 will do that.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hartung, President
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