

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB920 Interested Parties Advisory Group

Marylanders for Patient Rights is the leading advocacy coalition for patients in our state, and we are proud to be a member of Caring Across Maryland. We strongly support SB920 which will establish an Interested Parties Advisory Group (IPAG). The IPAG will provide recommendations for provider reimbursement rates, and it will be led by the Maryland Dept of Health. Importantly, the IPAG will include workers, health care consumers, community service providers, and State Medicaid officials.

Health care consumers, patients and their families want to have a voice in discussions of their health care needs. We want to ensure that there is adequate access to home and community based services, and an adequate direct care workforce.

However, Maryland is facing critical shortages of direct care workers. Staff turnover is high and negatively impacts quality of care for vulnerable patients. Understandably, careworkers are leaving the field for better paying employment and benefits at retail giants and restaurants. It is vitally important to ensure that this critical workforce is treated fairly and attracts qualified and caring workers, as our population ages and the need increases. The IPAG is an important step toward achieving that goal.

Please provide a favorable report on SB920 and support our caregiver workforce and their patients.

Thank you,

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