



Building a Just Society

Sam Williamson, Attorney
Public Justice Center
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-625-9409, ext. 234
williamsons@publicjustice.org

SB679: Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports
(Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act)

Senate Finance Committee, February 18, 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 SB679, which would help stabilize our nursing facility workforce.**

Maryland nursing facilities are experiencing a staffing crisis. The average nursing staff turnover in Maryland nursing facilities is a staggering 49.5% per year.¹ Turnover rates this high are associated with elevated levels of abuse towards residents.²

Studies show that staffing instability among licensed practical nurses and certified nurse aides is "red flag for quality."³ Staff instability directly contributes to worse health outcomes among nursing facility residents. High rates of instability are tied to short-term residents failing to improve sufficiently to discharge back to the community, and to long-term residents having worsened independent mobility.

The leading causes of staff turnover are low wages and lack of benefits. Over one-third of certified nursing assistants in nursing facilities rely on public assistance to make ends meet. 40% of staff do not have employer-sponsored healthcare.⁴ We must do more to ensure that those who care for our loved ones can sustain this lifesaving work. We must invest in our care workforce.

For these reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS SB679** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Should you have any questions, please call Sam Williamson at 410-625-9409 ext. 234.

¹ *Nursing Home Staff Turnover: Maryland*, CareListings, <https://carelistings.com/statistics/snf-staff-turnover/md> (based on 2023 data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services).

² *The Skilled Nursing Workforce: 2025 Report*, MissionCare Collective, p.7 (2025), <https://www.missioncare.com/hubfs/Skilled-Nursing-Workforce-Report.pdf>.

³ Dana B. Mukamel, et al., *Association of Staffing Instability with Quality of Nursing Home Care*, JAMA Netw Open. 2023;6(1):e2250389. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.50389, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2800160>.

⁴ *The Skilled Nursing Workforce*, p. 9.