

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB679 Nursing Homes-Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports (Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act)

Marylanders for Patient Rights is the leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We strongly support SB679 which will enable effective policymaking to protect the health of nursing home residents. Basically, SB679 will require each nursing home to expend at least 75% of its total nursing and residential care revenue for direct care wages and benefits. It will require each nursing home to submit an annual cost report with documentation of wage disbursement to the Maryland Dept. of Health (MDH).

Importantly, SB679 requires the MDH to take appropriate enforcement action, if necessary, thus improving the current oversight of nursing homes. The failure of MDH to enforce compliance with existing health care laws in the past has led to those laws being ineffectual and lawsuits targeting the MDH.

Nursing homes across the state face critical staffing shortages, leading to high staff turnover and negatively impacting the quality of care for these 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.

Moreover, the SB679 will address the lack of transparency regarding nursing home spending, in particular the percentage of nursing home revenue allocated to resident care and worker's wages.

Please provide a favorable report on SB679, and help to protect Maryland nursing home patients and residents by ensuring transparency of wages and benefits for our vital caregiver workforce.

Thank you,

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