



# END MEDICAL DEBT MARYLAND

Testimony on HB905/SB720  
*The Safe Staffing Act of 2025*  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

End Medical Debt Maryland is a coalition of consumer protection organizations, labor unions, civil rights groups, and patient advocates united in our efforts to end medical debt in Maryland. We represent 400,000+ Marylanders working to end the devastating impacts of medical debt and to hold our nonprofit hospitals accountable to their legal obligations to provide healthcare as a public good. We urge a **favorable** report on HB905/SB720: The Safe Staffing Act of 2025.

Medical debt correlates with food insecurity, inability to cover the cost of utilities, and housing instability. These factors can lead to worsening health outcomes in the long run, potentially contributing to further medical debt. Typically, patients are charged for their length of stay in a hospital. **When hospitals are chronically understaffed and patients are left waiting to receive care, their hospital bill can increase.** The average hospital stay in Maryland is \$14,200. This is unaffordable for everyday working people.

**Patients shouldn't have to pay more because hospital management fails to recruit and retain staff.**

The Safe Staffing Act of 2025 will create a shared governance structure for each hospital to craft a safe staffing plan that centers the voices of workers and patients. This is a best practice for worker recruitment and retention, and gives patients advocates a necessary seat at the table for creating staffing guidelines. Please vote YES on this bill. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

End Medical Debt Maryland