



Building a Just Society

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**HB1478: Public Health - Home Health Care Providers – Directory**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee, March 11, 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 HB1478, which would create a directory of home care workers in Maryland.**

Many home care workers struggle with job insecurity and insufficient hours. When their clients need to go to the hospital, direct care workers may be out of job for an indefinite period of time. Meanwhile, consumers often struggle to find staff to fill their home and community-based service hours. HB1478 will benefit both consumers and workers by helping consumers find home care workers who meet their needs.

Howard County already maintains an affordable database of home care workers, with information on types of support offered and current availability.<sup>1</sup> HB1478's database likewise can be an affordable spreadsheet with key information about home care workers. For example, HB1478 would provide information about which workers are fluent in languages other than English. There are approximately 44,983 Marylanders over age 65 who speak Spanish, and 108,644 Marylanders over 65 who speak languages other than English and Spanish.<sup>2</sup> About one-third of Maryland's direct care workforce are immigrants,<sup>3</sup> and can help meet the needs of consumers who speak languages other than English, if those workers and consumers could find each other. HB1478 would give consumers another tool for finding adequate care and would help home care workers obtain more consistent employment.

For these reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS HB1478** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Should you have any questions, please call Sam Williamson at 410-625-9409 ext. 234.

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<sup>1</sup> Howard County Office of Aging & Independence, *Home Care Partner Registry – Individual* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Home%20Care%20Individual%20List%20updated%201-2025.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *C16007 Age by Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over*, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2023.C16007?q=Maryland&t=Age+and+Sex:Language+Spoken+at+Home>.

<sup>3</sup> PHI, *Research Brief: Immigrants and the Direct Care Workforce* (June 2017), p.13 [https://www.phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/immigrants\\_and\\_the\\_direct\\_care\\_workforce\\_-\\_phi\\_-\\_june\\_2017.pdf](https://www.phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/immigrants_and_the_direct_care_workforce_-_phi_-_june_2017.pdf).