



Testimony on SB679/HB933
The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act of 2025
Position: **FAV**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ditanya Rosebud. I am a cook in a long-term care facility in Baltimore and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. I've worked in food preparation for healthcare facilities for 27 years and have been employed at my current facility for 11 years. I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB679/HB933: The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act of 2025.

My job is to prepare meals for the residents of the long-term care facility, where we have a new menu every week. I work the lunch and dinner shifts, so I prepare 60 meals per day. I'm also responsible for ensuring that the meals are all in accordance with the residents' dietary restrictions and wrapping the meals up afterward. I enjoy the work I do because preparing food is such an important way to care for people. Providing care is why I decided to enter this line of work.

My facility has been short staffed since the COVID19 pandemic hit, and it is only getting worse as time goes on. Before short staffing, I was cooking for 14-15 people, now I cook for 30. I miss the days preceding the short staffing crisis because we were able to have more of a family dynamic with the residents where we could spend quality time with them and customize their meals. The social aspect of dining was something that made the residents and the workers feel good. We used to cook in different "households" throughout the facility, but when management started short staffing the facility, we were all directed to move to the main kitchen where there is no interaction with residents whatsoever. Now, it feels more like being on an assembly line than providing care. Short staffing is an issue in every department, not just in the kitchen.

Investigating how long-term care facilities spend their money can help fix the problem of chronic short staffing, because it will provide transparency on worker wages and benefits. Workers are underpaid, and it would make those of us who have been working through this crisis feel more appreciated and less likely to quit if the state had more oversight on nursing home spending.

With the cost of living being so high, every month I have to make impossible choices like whether I pay the BGE or the water bill, because I can't afford to do both. I care for my two grandchildren. If I got a wage increase and could pay all my bills, I would spend anything extra on improving the quality of life for them. My grandchildren play sports, and I want to be able to afford to buy them more nutritious foods, but those are the foods that are most expensive.

Healthcare workers are tired of being overworked and underpaid. We need to be able to care for our loved ones like we care for yours. Please vote yes on SB679/HB933. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ditanya Rosebud