



Testimony on **SB240**

Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment

Position: FAV

To Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East in Maryland and Washington, DC. 1199 is the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in our region. Our union supports SB240 and urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

Federal cuts to healthcare have made it necessary for Maryland to have processes to hold facilities accountable to providing quality care. If passed, SB240 would ensure healthcare workers and consumers can share their expertise as part of the advisory council. This will make it easier to identify where oversight of our facilities is falling short. The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) oversees licensing, certifying, and surveying of Maryland healthcare facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, residential service agencies, and other long term care facilities.

We urge this committee to think of Maryland's most vulnerable who may be enduring subpar care due to lack of oversight. Please vote YES on SB 240 for more transparency within OHCQ and an inclusive advisory council.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones

Political Director

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

