



SB411/HB624  
Safe Staffing Act of 2026  
Position: **FAV**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kayla Brachmann, and I have been a pharmacy technician for more than 15 years, the past nine of which have been in Baltimore City in a hospital setting. I am also an active member and delegate of 1199SEIU. I am writing in support of The Safe Staffing Act because I have experienced the harm inadequate staffing brings to patients and care givers alike. I urge a **favorable** report on SB411/HB624 because healthcare workers should be at the table addressing the staffing crisis, and this bill is an important step towards protecting quality of care.

I first recognized the harm unsustainably low staffing levels cause shortly after I transitioned away from community pharmacy and into the hospital setting I have worked in for the past nine years. Before I was beyond even my 90-day training period, I was being asked to work double shifts, often 17 hours in length with little respite. **There came a point where I would sometimes go days without seeing my family between shifts and to this day I carry the guilt of missing so much of my now-teenage child's early years.**

The height of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated our existing staffing issues. The increased stress we were already under – both physically and mentally – made us more vulnerable to contracting the virus and suffering complications from the ensuing illness. Every healthcare worker that I personally know has, at some point, contracted COVID. We carry the lifelong impacts of those physical and emotional scars as we face resurgences of preventable illnesses brought about by inadequate and, frankly, incompetent federal oversight.

**In the face of the staffing crisis, I have watched as my fellow pharmacy technicians leave hospital work – or even healthcare altogether. I cannot fault them for this. We are tasked with providing care to an aging, ailing population in the midst of a staffing crisis years in the making with an ever-dwindling pool of resources and personnel. This is an untenable situation and can, undoubtedly, lead to further loss of life on both sides of the pharmacy counter.**

When healthcare workers are part of creating staffing plans, there can be a collaborative and transparent process for addressing the staffing crisis. Please vote **YES** on the Safe Staffing Act.

In Unity,

Kayla Brachmann  
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