



SB663/HB1414
Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2026
Position: **FAV**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Terena Perry. I am a Geriatric Nursing Assistant at a Long Term Care facility in Baltimore, where I have worked since 2010. Our residents are primarily residents who are experiencing behavioral health challenges, which is different than many other long term care facilities. My job is to assist my residents with daily living, like meals, bathing, getting to the restroom, movement, and anything else that helps them live with dignity. I support Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding and urge a **favorable** report because it can help get more investment in our workforce to improve safety for workers and residents alike.

We are short-staffed almost every day. When people call out, management doesn't find coverage. That leaves the rest of us with an increased workload to complete in the same amount of time. Healthcare is not something that should be rushed, because it could cause both workers and residents to get hurt. But when we don't have enough staff, we have no choice but to work faster. This affects GNA's because our job is physically demanding. It wears down on our bodies when we must do more work in the same time. We want to treat everyone the way we would want to be treated and provide the best care possible, but rushing makes it hard to do that. That wears us down mentally and emotionally because GNA's do this work because we want to care for people, and it doesn't feel good to know we can't do that as well with short staffing.

My facility used to be owned by a different company. Back then, we didn't have such a severe short staffing crisis, and management was more helpful with finding coverage when workers called out. That changed when the company I work for now bought the facility. There's been five different administrators in that time. If this bill were in place, we wouldn't start back at square one every time there is turnover in management because management would be directed to allocate 75% of Medicaid dollars to direct care, not whatever amount that administrator feels is appropriate for whatever reason. This bill gives consistency to workers and residents.

Anyone could end up in a Long-Term Care facility, so it is important for every Marylander that you pass the Nursing Home Crisis Funding Act. Please vote YES. Thank you.

In Unity,

Terena Perry