



February 27, 2026

Dear Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a grassroots organization of Maryland social workers, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on **SB 663: Nursing Homes-Direct Care Wages, Benefits, Cost**.

Direct service work in the healthcare industry is often exhausting, and far too often results in staff being overworked and underpaid. As social workers, we are well aware of the risk that this poses to the most vulnerable residents of Maryland. Low wages impact the quality of service for a variety of reasons, such as causing higher turnover in these positions and negatively impacting employee morale & well-being. The better Maryland can take care of its health occupation professionals, the better off we all will be.

We gratefully acknowledge the inclusion of social workers in **SB 663**. As a female dominated profession, social work continues to see challenges with pay equity. This bill offers a step in the right direction in supporting those caring for our most vulnerable communities.

Lastly, we appreciate that SB 663 requires accountability and transparency from nursing home facilities. It is essential that healthcare organizations are able to stay afloat financially, and equally important that they pay ALL of their workers fairly!

Thank you for taking this opportunity to support Maryland social workers.

Sincerely,

SWEAR (Social Workers for Equity & Anti-Racism)