



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

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gwen Umbach, and I work at a healthcare clinic providing insurance and healthcare advice to many Maryland residents. The state of Maryland nursing homes right now is dangerous to patients, staff, and families alike. Low staffing means less quality care for patients, while staff's health suffers due to overwork, or they quit entirely. Meanwhile, people avoid going into nursing homes because they know they will not get the care they need. I urge a **favorable** report on the Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act.

I recently spoke with a woman who lives in Maryland, whose husband has dementia and needs nursing home care. She was stressed out trying to find a nursing home that had space for him, and distraught over the horror stories she had heard of patients experiencing health crises without enough nurses or GNAs to care for them. While she tried to find a place for her husband, she was caring for him herself at home. She had already been injured while trying to provide this care, that she was neither trained nor equipped for, all on her own. Her husband was often agitated and in pain, and she was physically and mentally exhausted. If Maryland's nursing homes had enough staff, and especially long-time, experienced staff, this family and others would be able to find a nursing home bed and get high-quality healthcare.

The Nursing Home Crisis Funding Act would make this happen by requiring more revenue to go back into the workforce, improving staffing and reducing turnover. It's outrageous that currently, only around 52% of nursing home revenue in Maryland is spent on direct care. Much of that revenue is from Medicaid--those are our tax dollars, and they should be spent on actual healthcare, not nursing home shareholders. By ensuring that 75% of Medicaid dollars are spent on direct care, this bill is a huge step in the right direction for Maryland nursing home care. Please vote **YES** on this bill. Thank you.

In Unity,
Gwen Umbach