

NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS ALLIANCE

Comments in Support of HB1129

Maryland Medical Assistance Program- Provider Agencies- Wages and Leave for Personal Care Aides

Health Committee

March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Bagnall and members of the committee,

My name is Yalisa Jabbie, I am a member of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and I am a home care worker. My passion for care started when my mother became ill. At that time, I was too young to take care of her but I saw how my aunt and sister stepped up to give her the care she needed. Watching them give her love and compassion is what motivated my passion for helping others.

I had 5 kids and focused on raising them for a while. But my dream of working as a caregiver never left me. When my kids got older, I started my career in home care.

What I love most about my job is the joy it brings when I see my client happy. Knowing I've made a difference in their lives, whether by companionship or assisting them with daily tasks, like bathing them, feeding them, and other needs.

I always try to go above and beyond for my clients, but the truth is that there are many challenges working in this field.

One of the challenges I face in this field is low wages. I have three children currently in college, working to finance their own education. I wish I could give them more financial support so they could focus on their education. I also support my family back home in the Gambia. Despite these challenges, I always try to do my best. Higher wages would mean a lot to me and my family.

If working conditions were better, I believe the quality of care for clients would improve as well. Many people have left home care to look for other better paying opportunities even though they love this job. I myself consider leaving to focus on my own business, but I stay because of my love for my clients. I don't like to even take a day off from work because I know how important me being there is for my current client, and I can't imagine giving this up

I care about my clients deeply, and I make sacrifices for them. Their appreciation means a lot to me- but higher wages and sick time protections would go a long way as well. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate that our work is valued. For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of HB1129. Thank you.

Submitted via:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignup>