



Testimony on HB 1414
Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Report
Position: **FAV**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Taylor-Chester and I have been working as Geriatric Nursing Assistant at a long-term care facility for over 30 years. I love connecting with the residents and getting to know them. I go above and beyond what I am paid to make sure our residents are safe and cared for. I support HB1414 because care workers and residents in nursing homes deserve better. We need this bill because financial transparency is the first step towards improving residents' experiences and working conditions.

Recently, I was the only GNA on shift working with 41 residents. There should be 3 GNAs to care for that many people. It's detrimental to the residents because they are left waiting for the care they need. Residents get frustrated and overwhelmed, understandably so. It's not fair that they should have to wait for care. In addition to not having enough workers, we also don't have enough supplies.

I have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I continue to work so that I can provide for my family, but with short staffing, I feel overworked and burned out. I have arthritis and gout, and my work schedule barely lets me take care of myself. Workers are asked to sacrifice our own health when our facilities are short-staffed. This month, I took time off work because I had a medical procedure. While I was still recovering, I received a call from a manager asking me to come in to work even though I was on medical leave. Short staffing was the reason cited for why I needed to come in. The manager tried to make me feel guilty, like it was my fault they would be short that day. I care for my residents, but I also needed to care for myself and was unable to work. Instead of being able to focus solely on my healing, I was worrying about my residents. That's not fair to anyone.

Maryland needs to study our long-term care system to improve it for residents and workers. I urge a **favorable** report on HB1414: Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Taylor Chester

