



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 1129 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies - Wages and Leave for Personal Care Aides
COMMITTEE: House Health Committee
The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
DATE: February 24, 2026
POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights, well-being, and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the MaCCRA, we support House Bill 1129.

This bill sets a minimum wage floor of \$17 per hour for all personal care aides (PCAs) employed by Medicaid-funded provider agencies and ensures Maryland meets requirements outlined in the 2024 CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule.

In Maryland, the number of older adults is predicted to grow by 75% in the 30-year period from 2015 to 2045 – from 837,500 to nearly 1.5 million. Maryland will not be able to retain workers or recruit new direct care workers to meet this growing need for in-home care without addressing low wages. And, quality care for aging and disabled individuals begins with a supported workforce. Low wages leads to high turnover, burn out, and interruption in care for those who need it. The only way to face the workforce crisis and stabilize our long term care system is to pay workers a living wage.

Therefore, we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1129.

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