



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN
HB 584/SB 965 – DAY CARE CENTERS FOR THE ELDERLY AND DAY CARE
CENTERS FOR ADULTS – REIMBURSEMENT

A few months ago, I was invited to tour the new Lifebridge Health Adult Day Services at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Aging in Community by Lauri Malin, the Director, and a constituent. Lauri took me on a tour of this amazing and beautiful new center, just outside my district and across the street from Northwest Hospital Center, where they provide services to older adults who have both medical issues like diabetes and stroke-recovery challenges as well mental health problems such as Alzheimer's and dementia. Nurses, social workers and activity specialists work with the older adults to provide therapy, intellectual and physical stimulation in an environment that is bright, safe and supervised.

The services provided in an adult day care center are important both to the physical and intellectual health of vulnerable older adults. Do you know how much they get reimbursed from the state per day for the services they provide? Just over \$80 per day - \$82.24. They can only be reimbursed when someone has been at the center for 4 hours or more. So, if there is a weather-related closure or someone has to leave because they aren't feeling well and have a medical-related emergency, the center doesn't get reimbursed, placing a financial strain on the center. Adult day care centers have fixed costs including personnel – wages and benefits, transportation, rent, etc. and it only seems fair to me that if someone is not able to stay at the center for the 4 hour required time period, the center should not be penalized.

We have already recognized the importance of covering fixed costs in how we handle reimbursements to nursing facilities when there are brief absences because of medical emergencies. I hope that you will recognize that this policy should be changed in this very limited fashion - in the event of weather-related and medical emergencies - and permit a full reimbursement to the adult day care center, as required by HB 584. Thank you.