

# *Marylanders for Patient Rights*

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## **Marylanders for Patient Rights - FAVORABLE SB 384**

Chair Delores Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley,

On behalf of Marylanders for Patient Rights, I am writing in **SUPPORT OF SB 384**, Residential Service Agencies – Compliance with State Labor Laws. This commonsense bill will help Maryland's 30,000 personal care aides who have been among the most at-risk frontline workers as the pandemic raged through our elderly population. This workforce is too often marginalized, despite the critical role it plays in caring for our elderly family members and friends.

The bill, which focuses on guidance and reporting for Residential Service Agencies (RSAs), will help to protect workers and improve existing law by increasing transparency and improving the quality of data collection. First, the bill will help to educate RSAs by creating a short guidance document which will be required reading for RSAs prior to obtaining or renewing a license. Second, for Medicaid-funded work only, two additional items of data will be added to existing tracking: employment classification and pay rate. This will help the state to better track a vulnerable workforce and to ensure transparency.

I urge your committee to return a FAVORABLE report on SB 384, and to support our personal care aides who play such a vital role in protecting the elderly and disabled in Maryland.

Thank you,  
*Anna Palmisano*

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