



Managed by LifeSpan



TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 565 – *Public Safety – Emergency Management – Price Gouging Consumer Protections*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, and the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, we respectfully **support** Senate Bill 565. Among other provisions, Senate Bill 565 states that, during a State of Emergency, a person may not sell or offer to sell essential goods and services for a price of 10% or more above the highest price at which the person made actual sales or rentals of those essential goods or services between sixty days before the State of Emergency declaration and four days before the State of Emergency. The above-referenced organizations are particularly supportive of the inclusion of health staffing services as part of the definition of essential goods and services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the latest omicron surge, health care providers relied more heavily on the use of health care staffing agencies to meet mandatory regulatory staffing requirements. This was in part because of employees testing positive for the virus or being subject to quarantine policies. In an informal survey, many nursing facilities reported paying up to 30% higher for nursing staffing agencies during this time than they paid pre-pandemic, further straining operations. In a related twist, staffing agencies were also in the practice of recruiting current facility employees who then went “contract,” causing the facility to pay more for the same service.

For these reasons, we request a favorable vote on Senate Bill 565.

For more information call:

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