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**SB 966 Health Facilities - Assisted Living Programs - Referrals and Licenses
SUPPORT
Senate Finance Committee
March 5th, 2020**

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Jim Campbell, State President for AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland has over 900,000 members in Maryland and its members support **SB 966 Health Facilities - Assisted Living Programs - Referrals and Licenses**. We thank Senator Hettleman for bringing this important legislation forward.

HB 966 authorizes the Attorney General to seek an injunctive or other relief to prevent a person from operating, maintaining or owning an assisted living program without a license. The Bill also prohibits someone from knowingly and willfully referring another person to an assisted living program that is operating without license.

Older Marylanders and vulnerable individuals and their families make critical long-term care decisions to ensure that adequate and appropriate care is provided, especially when long-term services and supports are needed. Marylanders need remedies to protect them from unscrupulous players in the assisted living field—players who would open a facility without proper licensure. Marylanders need to know that the facilities to which their loved ones are referred are licensed and ensure the safety of those individuals. Finally, Maryland needs to enact sanctions and laws to hold accountable those who would evade these required practices or break the letter of this law.

AARP believes that States should rigorously enforce mandatory minimum standards and make other efforts to promote excellence and ensure quality of life outcomes for individuals in residential care settings. AARP also believes that States should have a full range of sanctions available for those who would break this law. These sanctions should include (but not be limited to) civil penalties, a ban on all new admissions, monitoring of directed plans of correction, denial of Medicaid payment for new admissions, and appointment of temporary managers and receivers.

Remedies should be swiftly imposed, with harsher sanctions for recurring, serious, or widespread deficiencies.

For these reasons AARP Maryland respectfully request a favorable report on SB 966. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

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