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**To:** Members of The House Health & Government Operations Committee

**From:** Elena Sallitto, Member and Morris Klein Chair, Elder Law & Disability Rights Section

**Date:** March 4, 2020

**Subject:** HB977

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports House Bill 977” Workgroup to Study Long-Term Care Medicaid Eligibility and Payments to Provider”** with a friendly amendment that provides that a member of the MSBA Elder Law & Disability Rights Section is to be included on the Workgroup.

Elder law attorneys routinely assist clients and their families with the Medicaid planning and application process. As attorneys, our membership is uniquely suited to understand the nuances of this very complex area of law. We have firsthand knowledge of the eligibility and application process. We have direct experience both with the nursing homes and the Bureau of Long Term Care and are intimately familiar with the misinformation and inefficiencies that plague the system and cost State, provider and recipient unnecessary time and money.

A system review and overhaul is long overdue. It also comes at a particularly good time as we are on the brink of a “silver tsunami” and can expect a significant increase in the demand for Medicaid Long-Term Care. It is only logical that we make sure we have an efficient system in place to process those applications and meet those needs in a timely manner.

For the reasons stated above, the MSBA Elder Law and Disability Rights Section **supports HB977 with a friendly amendment to include a member of the MSBA Elder Law and Disability Rights Section on the Workgroup urges a favorable committee report**

Please contact Elena Sallitto, 410-268-9246, [elena@Stavelylaw.com](mailto:elena@Stavelylaw.com); or Morris Klein, 301-652-4462, [morrisklein@morrisklein.com](mailto:morrisklein@morrisklein.com) if you have any questions.