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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### Senate Bill 507 – Division of Consumer Protection – Assisted Living Programs

Finance Committee  
February 18, 2021

## SUPPORT

**Background:** Senate Bill 507 (SB507) would require assisted living programs that are the authorized representative payee for residents to report the financial benefits of the residents including social security and other government funds for assisting older or disabled adults. It would also require the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) when it receives allegations of unfair, abusive or deception trade practices by an assisted living program to also refer the allegations to the division of consumer protection in the Attorney General's office.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council represents the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. Several Associated agencies, including, Jewish Community Services (JCS), Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI), and CHANA provide services to the rapidly aging Baltimore Community. CHANA has seen an uptick in low-income elder abuse victims who have gone to assisted living facilities that automatically hook up their social security benefits so that the facility gets their benefits automatically. While this is not on its face an indicator of abuse, when there is elder abuse, these victims do not understand the complicated process of stopping the automatic social security payments or worse, are threatened by the assisted living facility, and the become stuck in an unsafe living situation. SB507 will protect more older adults because it requires more transparency from assisted living facilities that are the payee for social security, as well as requiring the attorney general to be noticed of allegations of unfair, abusive or deception trade practices by assisted living facilities

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB507.

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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