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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**SB 804 / HB 972**

**Continuing Care at Home – Certificate of Need – Exemption – Elimination of Execution of a Required Number of Agreements and Corresponding Deposits**

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB804, Continuing Care at Home, Certificate of Need to you. It is the cross-file of HB972 that was passed out of the House 139-0. The bills are in the same posture except for the effective date. The Department of Aging requested a last minute change to a 7/1/2022 effective date. The Senate Bill reflects that change.

Recently, AARP conducted a survey and found that more than 90% of older adults wish to remain in their homes as they age. Unfortunately, individuals do not always have access to the supports and services that would allow them to remain in their home and age well. This is the focus of Continuing Care at Home (CCAH) a coordinated long-term care plan for healthy, independent seniors who want to stay at home.

CCAH is growing in popularity across the country. There are 37 programs nationwide, with 5 in PA and 4 in VA. It is a more affordable option compared to moving into a traditional Continuing Care Retirement Community. This would allow greater access to older Marylanders in a variety of socio-economic groups. Typically, subscribers pay a onetime membership fee – a 75 year old individual might expect to pay \$26-66k to join, then between \$400-600 monthly. In return they receive services such as:

- Care Coordination,
- Home Health Aides,
- Home Assessment,
- Companions,
- Live-in Companion / Home Health Aide,
- Assisted Living, Medication Management, and
- if needed, assisted living or skilled nursing care.

SB804 will help eliminates barriers and expand the availability of continuing care programs to more Marylanders allowing them to age in place at home. Our current certificate of need laws would not allow CCAH subscribers to access beds at a CCRC's assisted living or skilled nursing facilities. SB 804 will permit CCRCs in Maryland who

wish to pursue a CCAH program, who have CON-excluded beds, to be able to offer subscribers access to skilled care on their own campus.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 804.