

Felicia Anthony - Witness Statement – Edited 2/2022

The Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators is **in full support of House Bill 1034 (Senate Bill 720) and strongly advocates for the public protection of our citizens who are residents in assisted living facilities. The Board's position is** that the state of Maryland **will be able to provide** support to assisted living managers by approving a system that would license them so that they are better equipped to elevate the Quality of Life and Care of and to our seniors.

This Maryland license would grant Assisted Living Managers legal authority to practice in their profession within a designated scope of practice. Under this licensing system, the state of Maryland would define by statute the tasks, functions, and minimum standards of practice. Without demonstrated practice competencies and adherence to a code of professional ethics, the relationship between assisted living managers, staff, and our vulnerable adults have the potential to become harmful or inappropriate, without professional consequences. Some of the negative outcomes that have occurred in Maryland have been broadcast on television, in newspapers, and on the internet.

With the rising acuity levels of our seniors living in assisted living facilities, it is imperative that the managers of these facilities are licensed. Living arrangements range from a few residents in a house with little oversight, to over a hundred in a larger facility. It is imperative that we set managers up for success as professionals by requiring training, skill validation, adherence to a code of ethics with oversight, and continuous professional support. It is equally important to support our vulnerable seniors by requiring the managers of their community to be held to a high professional standard of ethics, education, training, and oversight. Lastly, managers set the tone and culture that the hands on providers work within. A licensed manager will professionally connect to the caretakers by assuring adequate training, care with dignity and respect, and overall compliance.

As you are aware, licensing and certification processes can complement one another and co-exist. It is envisioned that once an Assisted Living Manager meets the requirement and completes the 80-hour course certificate, the certifying agency will transfer the information to our licensing agency for testing and licensing. Thus, a synchronized effort would minimize cost to the issuing agency and there would be no additional cost to the provider. Both the certification and the license will provide the ultimate in public protection.