

HB1122_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1122 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Maryland Health Care Commission – Nursing Homes – Acquisitions

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1122, Maryland Health Care Commission – Nursing Homes – Acquisitions

This bill is an attempt to ensure that the most vulnerable populations, those persons confined in a nursing home, are protected by the state from predatory corporations that put profits before people.

McKnights Long-Term Care News, reporting on nursing home acquisitions, noted: ¹

“Public health and epidemiology researchers from five universities in three countries reviewed dozens of studies on private equity ownership and found that an escalation in private equity takeovers across healthcare settings has led to higher costs for patients and payers. Several studies also found more ensuing harmful health outcome impacts than beneficial ones.”

Politico, reporting on a nursing home implosion in Wisconsin after a private equity firm took over a series of nursing homes, ²

“When Atrium Health and Senior Living in the Midwest teetered in September 2018, triggering the sudden closure of the Weston home and three others several months later, the chaos capped years of mismanagement, with Atrium’s owners enriched at the expense of vulnerable residents.”

This bill, introduced by my Delegate, Ken Kerr, would assist Maryland by mandating that acquisitions of a nursing home become public knowledge and receive an evaluation by the Maryland Health Care Commission before approval or denial of an application. Requirements for that decision, subject to judicial review, would add protection to patients and staff alike. My family member is in a long-term care facility, it was taken over with no advance notice to residents and staff and the level of care has been degraded since then. This bill would add needed oversight of corporate takeovers within the Maryland health care system. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1122.**

¹ <https://www.mcknights.com/news/costs-rise-quality-falls-after-nursing-home-acquisitions-review/>

² <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/12/24/nursing-homes-private-equity-fraud-00132001>