

Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 18, 2025

Bill Number: HB933

Bill Title: Nursing Homes - Cost Reports

Committee: Health and Government Operations

## **MDOA Position: SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 933 - Nursing Homes – Cost Reports.

As amended, HB933 will charge the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to review cost reports and other data around the allocation of resources to contracted nursing care services, salaries and wages of all non-administrative direct care workers that are submitted by every nursing home in the state that participates in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. The Department will report its findings by October 1, 2025 and every October 1 thereafter through 2029. MDOA supports HB933 as amended as a cost-neutral, positive first data-driven step towards greater understanding of how nursing homes participating in Medicaid in Maryland are spending their funds, how much they are paying their direct care staff and potentially more about their ownership structures. MDOA appreciates the efforts of the bill sponsor and MDH on these amendments that will be significant in strengthening Maryland's cost-reporting and data collection process for nursing homes. This bill as amended will better inform the public and best inform future rate setting for Medicaid-funded care workers and enforcement requirements.

By prioritizing the state's commitment to high-quality care in nursing homes and the care workforce within the, HB933 will support Maryland's commitment to building a longevity-ready<sup>1</sup> future. For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a **favorable report for House Bill 933 as amended**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MD Department of Aging, Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative, https://aging.maryland.gov/LRM/Pages/Goals.aspx



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If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at <u>andreah.nunez@maryland.gov</u> or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Comel Roger

Carmel Roques Secretary Maryland Department of Aging