

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB 442 Professional Liability Insurance Coverage-Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Nurse Midwives-Disclosure

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy coalition for patients in our state, and we strongly support HB442. Reports of worsening “senior trafficking” by unlicensed care homes has focused a bright light on the need for protecting seniors from exploitation by “fraudsters,” and wisely informing all health care consumers.

HB442 will help ensure that seniors and other healthcare consumers have some protection from bad or misguided managers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or nurse midwife operations who fail to maintain liability insurance.

The bill requires simple, yet important, protections by requiring that nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and midwives inform prospective residents in writing whether professional liability coverage has been maintained. This allows health care consumers to make informed, smart choices when selecting an appropriate health facility for themselves or their loved ones.

Moreover, it requires that if liability lapses, residents must be notified. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities must post in a conspicuous place that they do not maintain professional liability coverage.

Clearly, Maryland needs to do more to protect vulnerable patients and health facility residents, and HB442 is a vital step toward achieving that goal. Please provide a favorable report for HB442.

Thank you,

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