



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...  
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Shelly Hettleman

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: March 5, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 966 – *Health Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Referrals and Licenses*

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On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community based services, we **support** Senate Bill 966.

Senate Bill 966 seeks to increase the quality of care in assisted living by strengthening the laws related to operating a program without a license. Senate Bill 966 authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to impose injunctive or other relief on persons that repeatedly operate without a license. Senate Bill 966 also prohibits a person from willfully and knowingly referring an individual to an unlicensed assisted living program. Lastly, Senate Bill 966 requires those entities that refer individuals to assisted living programs for compensation to be registered with the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and, among other requirements, to only refer individuals to a licensed assisted living program.

Senate Bill 966 is a consumer protection bill that LifeSpan believes will increase quality in the assisted living industry and provide greater protections for individuals seeking care. While Maryland already makes it a felony with penalties for operating an assisted living program without a license, greater efforts are needed. Unlicensed assisted living programs operate without appropriate oversight by OHCQ. Additional efforts must be made to identify and prevent these programs from operating. In addition, individuals that use the services of a “referrer” are under the impression that the programs they are being referred to are licensed and have been adequately vetted for quality. For these reasons, LifeSpan urges a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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