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In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Alfred C. Carr, Jr.

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

DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 631 – *State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators – Board Membership and Provisional Licensing Requirements*

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 with amendment** House Bill 631. House Bill 631 makes three changes: 1) applies the same experience standards to non-nursing home administrators as is applied to nursing home administrators on the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators; 2) removes the requirement that the Secretary of Health consult with the associations and societies appropriate to the discipline or profession represented; and 3) authorizes the Board to issue a provisional license for less than 90 days.

While LifeSpan is concerned that the first two changes could make it more problematic to fill vacancies, we are more concerned with the third provision which would lessen the timeframe for issuing a provisional license. In 2017, the General Assembly added the provision that allows a nursing home to appoint a non-licensed individual to serve as the administrator for a period of 90 days. Provisional licenses are issued for extreme situations, such as when an administrator leaves abruptly (i.e., death, immediate terminations, etc.). It is our understanding that the Board has only issued six provisional licenses. Shortening the timeframe could be very problematic. The ability to advertise, interview and then complete the hiring process takes time. Nursing homes need the assurance that they will have 90 days to complete this process to ensure that the appropriate person is hired. Ninety days is an acceptable time frame, and we request that it remain intact.

For more information call:

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