

Bill: HB 1010 *Health Care Facilities – Discrimination (LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights)*

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Position: Support

As the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I advocate for the rights of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Discrimination against individuals in facilities is serious issue especially among individuals in the LGBTQ community. A study completed by the National Senior Citizens Law Center is referenced here: https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/NSCLC_LGBT_report.pdf This study illustrates the importance of protecting the rights of elders and that there are more protections needed for this population in long-term care. This bill will help give those protections

Residents in nursing homes have the right to have person-centered care. This is especially true for LGBTQ residents. Residents should have input into choice of room, how care is provided, privacy, and how they want to be addressed. This bill would help protect and ensure those rights.

This bill identifies and codifies the rights to which LGBTQ residents are entitled, including rights to equal treatment and confidentiality. It also emphasizes, importantly, that residents must be made aware that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is a resource for advocacy for residents.

This bill will help prevent discrimination, harassment, and improper treatment of long-term care residents.

Vote yes to HB 1010.

Note – This vote of support is from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman not Maryland Department of Aging.

Stevanne Ellis

Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman