



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 204 - Health Care Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Unit Regulations

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair

DATE: Thursday February 11, 2021

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA SUPPORTS efforts to:

- Enhance: Transparency, Accountability, Financial Security; and
- Preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association, we support Senate Bill 204.

We support the concept of standards for memory care in assisted living. We do understand that in order to improve quality of care and allow the consumer to make choices about services there needs to be some standards to compare facility services.

There are many differences between a true memory care unit and assisted living. There needs to be a way for family members and older persons to differentiate between assisted living facilities and those that truly offer memory care. If a facility advertised memory care, then it should provide a standard of memory care. Special training and programming are required to truly meet the needs of people with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.

The existing Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council plan could have a role as they developed a state plan in 2012 and are in process of updating that plan. The Maryland demographer should be consulted to identify the growing need for this type of care.

For these reasons we support Senate Bill 204 and ask for a Favorable report.

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