



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

TO: The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Adelaide Eckhardt

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: March 11, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 795 – *Oversight Committee on Quality Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities – Membership and Cochairs*

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 795. Senate Bill 795 adds a representative from Leading Age Maryland to the Oversight Committee and removes the Secretary of Aging from chairing the Oversight Committee. The bill then specifies that the Oversight Committee will be chaired by co-chairs nominated by members on a yearly basis and will include one chair from a State agency and one chair from the individuals representing the provider and consumer advocacy organizations. Equally important, the bill requires that, before a chair can be nominated, 80% of the designated slots must be filled.

The General Assembly formed the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes in 2000. In 2005, the General Assembly added assisted living programs. However, over the years, the Oversight Committee has often experienced vacancies in the designated slots, affecting its ability to effectively operate. More recently, there have been issues raised regarding “chairing” the Committee, which Senate Bill 795 seeks to address. LifeSpan believes that it is important for both the consumer and provider advocacy organizations to work together to ensure that residents of assisted living programs and nursing homes receive the quality of care that they deserve. While we may not always agree, the ability to gather, discuss and work through issues is paramount to advancing strong public policy. We believe that Senate Bill 795 will advance the overall goals of the Oversight Committee, and we urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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