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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 Marlon Amprey

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Steve Wise

DATE: March 4, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1292 – *Baltimore City - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Social Workers*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities and assisted living providers, we respectfully oppose House Bill 1292. This bill requires each nursing home and assisted living program in Baltimore City to designate a licensed social worker for each resident in an assisted living program and nursing home to serve as the resident's case manager.

It is our understanding that, in Baltimore City, there are twenty-seven nursing homes with 3597 beds and 410 assisted living programs with 2903 beds. It is important to note that, of the assisted living programs in the City, 94% are nine beds and under. It is unclear from the bill if it requires a specific resident per social worker ratio or a specific classification of social worker. It is also unclear if there is an adequate number of social workers in Baltimore City for nursing homes and assisted living programs to be able to satisfy the bill's requirements. It is also important to note that social workers are required to be employed or contracted by nursing homes. Social workers must, within seven days after admission, initiate a social history, which includes discharge plans. Both assisted living programs and nursing homes have requirements for care planning and service plans that incorporate the resident and/or legal representative. Therefore, given the vagueness of the bill and the cost implications that this bill may have on providers, we would urge an unfavorable vote.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Steve Wise
410-244-7000