



Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
House Bill 276: *Congregate Care Facilities - Visitation*
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 2, 2021

Position: Letter of Information

On behalf of the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA), whose members include Medicare-certified home health agencies, private duty companies and durable medical equipment suppliers across the State, we submit this letter of information on House Bill 276 and request to be removed from the bill's provisions. House Bill 276 creates a broad definition of congregate care facilities and states that a congregate care facility shall allow a patient's or resident's family member to visit the patient or resident, unless the facility reasonably determines that the presence of a particular visitor would endanger the health or safety of a patient, resident, or member of the facility staff. The bill specifically includes a home health agency.

By its very nature, a home health agency delivers care in a client's private home and not in a congregate setting. A home health agency has no decision-making authority over visitation and is, in fact, a visitor. Therefore, given this difference, MNCHA respectfully requests to have a home health agency removed from the definition of congregate care facility and, as such, this bill. Thank you.

For More Information:

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