



Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association

Senate Bill 311: *Catastrophic Health Emergencies - Health Care Providers - Definition and Immunity*
(*Maryland Health Care Heroes Protection Act*)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 2, 2021

Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

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 support Senate Bill 311 with an amendment.

Unfortunately, because the bill defines “health care facility” as a facility under §19-114 of the Health-General Article, residential service agencies (defined under §19-4A-01 of the Health-General Article) have been inadvertently omitted from the bill’s protections. However, they have been on the front lines, providing care to individuals in their home. Often, their services have been more sought after to avoid other congregate settings. Like others, they have struggled to secure necessary personal protective equipment, provide hero’s pay, and comply with applicable requirements, often with little or no clear guidance from the State and/or local governments. Consequently, they deserve the same protection afforded to other health care facilities under this bill. **Therefore, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to include residential service agencies.** With this amendment, we urge a favorable vote.

For More Information:

Dawn Seek
Executive Director
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
Office: 410-980-6135

Danna Kauffman
Schwartz, Metz and Wise, P.A.
dkauffman@smwpa.com
410-294-7759