

SB 720 - State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators - Renaming and Licensure of Assisted Living Managers

Written Testimony – Ciara J. Lee, Executive Director, Maryland Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators

Good Afternoon Everyone! My name is Ciara Lee and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators. I would first like to thank the sponsors, Chair Senator Dolores G. Kelley; Vice Chair Senator Brian J. Feldman; and Senator Malcolm Augustine of the Finance Committee, for this opportunity to provide testimony for Senate Bill 720.

I come to you today as the administrative representative of the Board Office, and to emphasize the Board's support of Senate Bill 720 for the following reasons:

- The bill promotes public safety and protection (which is a primary objective of the Board's mission); and
- It encourages and promotes professionalism, accountability, and responsibility for assisted living managers (ALMs) in Maryland.

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the State department that regulates assisted living programs in Maryland. According to their Annual Report and Staffing Analysis for Fiscal Year 2021, the tenth most frequently cited deficiency was associated with Assisted Living Manager practices. From my understanding, sanctions are not imposed on ALMs and there is no process for posting public orders against ALMs for public knowledge. With the current regulatory oversight, ALMs are allowed to circumvent discipline and liability.

Maryland, compared to other states, has a high acute Long-Term Care facility population continuing to require more health expertise. Especially during COVID-19 pandemic, as infection control deficiencies are rising, Senate Bill 720 is an extremely important piece of legislation that will strengthen the collaboration between OHCQ and the Board, the standardization of the ALM profession in Maryland, and most importantly, the protection and safety of residents. We ask that you take this into consideration and vote favorably for this bill.

Thank you!

Are there any questions?