



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

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Lisa Belcastro

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 16, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 636 – *Maryland Health Care Commission – Assisted Living Programs – Study*

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** House Bill 636. House Bill 636 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct a review of those assisted living programs with nine or fewer beds in the State.

A review of the make-up of the assisted living industry demonstrates that, for the most part, the assisted living industry is made up of small businesses. According to the Office of Health Care Quality, there are currently 1,699 assisted living programs that are licensed to care for 25,391 individuals. Of those, 1,285 assisted living programs are nine or fewer beds and are licensed to care for 7,035 individuals. Therefore, the nine or fewer bed assisted living programs make up approximately 76% of the industry and are licensed to care for approximately 28% of the assisted living population.

Small providers often serve our poorest citizens, relying upon funding sources such as the Medicaid waiver or SSI payments. Without a robust small provider network, many individuals would be placed in a nursing home and many others would find themselves without any safe shelter. It is important to note that Maryland is one of the only states that use one regulatory scheme for assisted living. The vast majority do not regulate the smallest providers the same as larger providers and then often apply a different regulatory set and/or limit the level of care that may be provided.

Therefore, we believe that this study is timely to better understand the challenges presented in providing care within this sector of the industry and how the State can better support these smaller programs to ensure that they have the tools needed to deliver quality care at affordable levels.

For more information call:

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