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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Senate Bill 665- Assisted Living Programs – Unlicensed Programs
 – Resident Abuse and Neglect**

Finance Committee

March 16, 2023

Background: Senate Bill 665 (SB665) would give the Department of Health more powers to go after unlicensed assisted living facilities by authorizing the Department to investigate whether residents in an unlicensed facility have been subject to neglect or abuse. This bill also gives the Attorney General, the State's Attorney or the Department the ability to seek injunctive relief against the unlicensed assisted living facility.

Written Comments: Every senior deserves to live in a safe place, however, right now in Maryland, we know that is not the case. Several Associated agencies, including, Jewish Community Services (JCS), Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI), and CHANA provide services to the rapidly aging Baltimore Community. CHANA has seen an uptick in clients who have been subject to abuse in unlicensed assisted living facilities. Currently in Maryland there is very little relief for victims of abuse in unlicensed facilities. SB665 aims to start to address this issue by giving state agencies the authority to investigate and seek injunctive relief against these facilities.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on SB665.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.