



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 665 - Assisted Living Programs – Unlicensed Programs – Resident Abuse and Neglect**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 665 - Assisted Living Programs – Unlicensed Programs – Resident Abuse and Neglect.

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the agency within MDH charged with monitoring the quality of care in certain health care facilities and community-based programs, including assisted living programs. OHCQ oversees all assisted living programs in Maryland and conducts surveys for licensure, inspection of care, change of ownership, Alzheimer's special care units as well as investigates complaints and facility-reported incidents.

OHCQ's assisted living unit investigates about 120 allegations of unlicensed assisted living programs each year. These complaints come from the residents, family, employees, neighbors, local ombudsman, EMS, police, or other sources. OHCQ works closely with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) within the Office of the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute these unlicensed programs. In certain circumstances, this bill subjects an assisted living program that is operating without a license to immediate prosecution, rather than waiting 30 days as is now required. This bill is crucial to better protect the health and safety of Marylanders who are receiving services in unlicensed programs.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary