

SB 665 – Assisted Living Programs – Unlicensed Programs – Resident Abuse and Neglect

Written Testimony – Ciara J. Lee, Executive Director, Maryland State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators

Good afternoon, everyone! My name is Ciara Lee and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Long-Term Care Administrators. I would first like to thank the President, the Finance Committee and the Office of the Attorney General for this opportunity to provide testimony for Senate Bill 665.

I come to you today as the administrative representative of the Board Office to emphasize the Board's support of Senate Bill 665. As we know, the aging and vulnerable population continues to increase. Many of those individuals require assistance with housing, supportive healthcare services, and functionality of activities of daily living. Depending on the severity level of an individual's needs, admission into a licensed assisted living program may be an appropriate option. While there are approximately 1,724 licensed assisted living programs in Maryland that meet the State's standards to operate and provide healthcare services to their residents, there are also unlicensed assisted living programs within the State that do not meet the State's requirements and are not State-regulated, affecting the overall well-being and safety of their residents.

Senate Bill 665 would set a precedence for the State to hold unlicensed assisted living facilities accountable for their operational violations and employ a State statutory standard of operations that enhances the well-being and safety of assisted living residents. We ask that your take this into consideration and vote favorably for this bill.

This concludes my testimony. Any questions?

Thank you!