



Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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An AFL-CIO “Union City”

07 March, 2023

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Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I write to you today on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, and our 150,000 rank-and-file members. I urge this committee to pass House Bill 702 - Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions and Licensure.

In support of our affiliate 1199SEIU, the language in HB 702 provides 1199SEIU with another tool to address the problem of out-of-state owner-operators who are more concerned with profits than providing quality care. HB 702 connects Maryland's regulatory process for acquisition and transfer of ownership with the separate process for a facility to receive licensure, requiring our regulators to work together.

Workers deserve employers that care about providing care to patients and their employees. For too long, out-of-town owners have been allowed to cut corners and staff in favor of their profit margins. For far too long, "red flag" candidates awaiting approval have been granted licenses they shouldn't have. To solve this problem, the Metro Washington Council supports HB 702 calls for the MHCC to share its findings with the Office of Healthcare Quality (OHCQ), the agency charged with issuing licenses to nursing home operators. HB 702 acts as a "bridge" between ownership and quality. We believe implementing this change would create an additional guardrail, allowing Maryland to message outside owners that their quality track record

matters.

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In closing, House Bill 702 will provide workers and consumers with better quality facilities, protection, and care. I thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. I urge a favorable vote on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Dyana Forester

President