



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

Catholic Charities

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Sarah Mücke
410-542-4850*

Testimony in Support of HB 702 Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions and Licensure

Committee Health and Government Operations

Date of Hearing March 9, 2023

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports HB 702. HB 702 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, when evaluating a transfer of ownership of a nursing home, to provide information to the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality on the entity acquiring the facility, including its Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) quality rating, its tax ID number, and its Medicare and Medicaid Services Certification Number. HB 702 will result in more transparency for entities purchasing nursing homes in Maryland, and documentation of whether they have a record of operating facilities that provide quality care to residents.

As advocates for low- and moderate-income seniors, MSCAN is particularly concerned about the quality of life of those who live in skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes) in Maryland. Increasingly, nationally and in our state, ownership of nursing homes is becoming increasingly concentrated, as private equity entities acquire control of nursing home chains. Researchers and journalists have documented that when these acquisitions occur, an emphasis on cost cutting leads to reductions of staffing, deteriorating resident health, and an increase in mortality rates. Yet when families and friends of nursing home residents seek to hold responsible parties accountable, they have difficulty understanding the opaque and complex corporate structures that control these homes, and identifying which homes with poor records of care have the same owner.

HB 702, by requiring two Maryland Department of Health agencies to share information about nursing home owners seeking to acquire homes, is a small step toward identifying owners with a poor record of providing care.

For the reasons stated above, MSCAN urges a favorable report on HB 702.

Thank you for your consideration.