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TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair and
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

RE: SB509 – Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes – Acquisitions and
Licensure: **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit, writes this Letter of Support for Senate Bill 509. The HEAU made recommendations to the original draft to strengthen the bill's intent to ensure robust review of nursing home acquisitions and transfers of interest which were adopted in Committee and, as amended, the bill has passed third reader in both chambers with unanimous support. The bill has also been amended to direct the Maryland Health Care Commission to study and make recommendations regarding the expansion of the certificate of need program over nursing home acquisition and report back to the General Assembly by the end of the year.

The HEAU supports this bill because it would serve Marylanders to have MHCC and MDH develop a robust process to vet operators of nursing homes at the change of ownership stage. With additional indicia of nursing home quality and regulatory compliance to the review of licensure applications now included, the HEAU would request a favorable report for SB509, as amended.