

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB509 Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes---Acquisitions and Licensure

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We believe that SB509 is vitally important to ensuring that our most vulnerable Maryland patients – those living in nursing homes—are protected from any nursing home industry members who may be more concerned with profits than providing quality care.

Maryland ranks 5th in the country for having the highest rate of changes in ownership of nursing homes. As the nursing home industry faces rapid changes, and deals with potentially “bad actors,” there is a clear imperative to ensure that owners maintain a high quality of care for their patients.

Unfortunately, state government agencies can sometimes become “stovepiped,” reducing communication and effectiveness. SB509 is a commonsense bill which will connect Maryland’s regulatory process for acquisition and transfer of ownership with the separate process for a facility to receive licensure. This bill will require the Maryland Health Care Commission to share its findings with the Office of Health Care Quality, thus linking ownership of nursing homes with oversight of quality of care and protection of vulnerable health care consumers.

Please provide a favorable report on SB509, and help to ensure well-managed and high quality healthcare for Maryland nursing home patients.

Thank you,

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