



**Statement of the Maryland Federation of National Active and
Retired Federal Employees – State Legislative Committee**

House Bill 774

**Assisted Living Programs – Unlicensed Programs = Resident Abuse
and Neglect**

Good Afternoon, Madame Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Paul Schwartz, and I am the Chair of the State Legislative Committee (SLC) of the Maryland Federation of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Assisted Living facilities are profit driven facilities and, as such, require government oversight. HB 774 provides that oversight and we support its passage.

My story takes place in New Jersey, not Maryland, but I think it is relevant to my concerns about assisted living facilities in general and I would like to share it with you.

My parents owned a home in Brooklyn, downsized it to a 55 and over community in New Jersey. During that time my mom's health deteriorated. She needed open heart surgery and suffered a series of mini-strokes and my dad decided it was time to move to an assisted living facility near their home in New Jersey.

The facility told them that they needed to cover the first two years at the facility and then, after two years, MEDICAID would kick in. As it turned out it neither had the right or authority to make that assurance!

They sold their home and used all of their assets to cover the two years at the assisted living facility. During this time, however, my Mom's health continued to deteriorate as she became afflicted with Alzheimers.

Her condition was too much for the assisted living portion of the facility so they decided they needed to move her to the nursing

home portion on an upper floor of the same facility **but not with my father who had to remain in the assisted living portion.**

MEDICAID did cover my Mom in the nursing home, HOWEVER, Medicaid decided that my Dad, living in the lower floor of the same facility and who at the time was 87 and could barely see due to macular degeneration did not qualify for MEDICAID.

Without any assets, who, then, was going to pay for his stay in assisted living? **What happened to the assurance that MEDICAID was going to cover the cost after two years?**

Was he going to be separated from his wife of close to seventy years by having to move in with one of his children?

Fortunately for us we were able to get them both into a **nursing home facility** in Brooklyn covered by Medicaid for both where they lived out the remaining years of their lives together.

My point of this story is to shed light on the need for government oversight of assisted living facilities wherever they are and HB 774 does just that.

