



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 9, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support - House Bill 702- Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions and Licensure

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 702. Maryland hospitals support requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to provide certain information about the acquisition of a nursing home to the Office of Health Care Quality and requiring the Secretary of Health to consider this information before taking certain action regarding licensure to operate a nursing home.

Between 2020 and 2022, 19-23% of Medicare beneficiaries discharged from an acute care hospital stay were admitted to a nursing home for skilled nursing care. Access to high quality care in nursing homes is essential to decrease avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions and improve overall patient outcomes and safety for this population. Additionally, it is critical that hospitals can discharge patients to nursing homes without delay to manage acute care capacity, length of stay, and emergency department wait times.

Affirming that facility owner/operators can provide high quality medical and nursing care, have stable finances, and adhere to state and federal regulation is essential to ensure quality care post hospital discharge. This is critical to daily hospital operations and performance under the Total Cost of Care Model. Maryland patients deserve quality nursing home care.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report for House Bill 702.

For more information, please contact:
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