

SB 797 Judicial Proceedings Committee- Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse

Position – Favorable from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
February 22, 2023

On behalf of Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 797 - Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse. As the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I advocate for the rights of long-term care residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities including the quality of care and quality of life. It is critical that all individuals should be free of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and improper care in any setting. All residents whether in the community or in long-term care facilities should not be a victim of egregious events.

By examining the functions outlined in the bill, this task force can help improve and ensure protections for those at risk of elder abuse. These functions include reviewing the existing policies and law that are in place. The members of the task force will evaluate what is needed to be done to prevent and to reduce the rate of incidents of elder abuse for older adults in Maryland. If this bill is made into law, elder abuse awareness and services available should be more readily accessible to the citizens of Maryland. This will improve the lives of Marylanders and their support systems.

As the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I am asking for a favorable report on SB 797.

Respectfully,

Stevanne Ellis, Maryland State Long-Term Care Ombudsman