



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

March 21, 2023

Senate Bill 884: Maryland Department of Health – Workgroup to Study the Establishment
of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program

Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 884. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 884 requires the Maryland Department of Health to convene a Workgroup to Study the Establishment of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program and requires the Workgroup to examine many factors related to the need for affordable assisted living residences including the number required, locations, services needed, funding sources and eligibility.

As this legislation states, Maryland’s population of residents aged 60 years and older is expected to increase to 1.7 million by 2030. Of all the assisted living beds in Maryland, less than 5% are occupied by older, low-income adults enrolled in the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Options Waiver and more than 22,000 Marylanders are on the waiting list to receive services under this waiver.

Given the current and future demand for assisted living services, together we must evaluate how we can provide greater access to affordable, quality, community-based care for older adults. Assisted living services are so important to the quality of life for aging Marylanders – they provide social engagement and community involvement, as well as health related services.

An Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program could help create affordable assisted living capacity for low- and moderate-income adults. It is critical we study the feasibility of this innovative initiative to ensure that we allocate resources in the most efficient and cost-effective ways for the health and well-being of aging Marylanders.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 884.

Submitted by:

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