

Written testimony for Senate Bill, SB0952

Support: Favorable

Patrick Mish
CEO and Cofounder, SilverStay
1311 Waneta Ct
Odenton, MD 21113

Hello my name is Patrick Mish. I'm the CEO and Cofounder of SilverStay, an assisted living placement agency.

Assisted living is an essential solution to meeting our country's rapidly increasing need for sophisticated long term care for medically, financially, and socially vulnerable individuals. The population of 65-plus individuals is growing five times the rate of the total US population (2020 Census Bureau). This demographic is experiencing homelessness and medical complexity at high rates leading to packed emergency rooms and high length-of-stay in hospitals (WSJ, 9/2023).

Assisted living placement agencies provide an essential linkage between these vulnerable individuals and high performing, clinically, financially, and socially sophisticated assisted living communities. In order for this linkage to be made in a safe and efficient manner, placement agencies must have:

1. A nuanced understanding of the individuals clinical needs, and
2. Assisted living outcome data for individuals with similar clinical, social, and financial situations

As such, placement agencies should be obtaining clinical information on the individuals they are serving while utilizing a robust information security management program and ensuring that each individual or their proxy has signed a HIPAA authorization form.

This is why SilverStay hires licensed social workers to support our clients, collects outcome data on assisted living facilities, and has deployed a robust information security management process. Operating in this form allows our company to reliably and consistently support vulnerable individuals transitioning to assisted living.

Clinically sophisticated placement agencies are essential to supporting our vulnerable Maryland residents.