



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MD

**GABE ALBORNOZ**  
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
CHAIR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

February 29, 2024

Senator Ben Kramer  
401 Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Kramer:

I am writing in support of SB825, Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Related Institutions and Nursing Homes. There are approximately 230 nursing homes in the State of Maryland with approximately 30,000 nursing home beds available. As Chair of the Montgomery County Council Health and Human Services Committee, I understand the importance of timely inspections and site visits in our nursing homes and related institutions to ensure that all our facilities provide a clean, safe and healthy environment for our residents. Accountability is a key factor in that process.

Delegating authority to local units of government, upon their request to inspect and conduct site visits and full surveys of related institutions and nursing homes as well as requiring them to report certain information to that designated local government entity, is a major step toward full accountability for quality of care for nursing homes and related institutions. While I wholeheartedly support SB825, giving counties and local government entities the right to request and receive the authority from the Secretary of Health to carry out these duties, I also am in favor of the ‘Friendly Amendment’ offered by Montgomery County DHHS to clarify that a county could request to inspect nursing homes but not all other “related institutions” in the county.

Thank you, Senator Kramer for your work on this legislation. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabe Albornoz", written in a cursive style.

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz