

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB376: Health Facilities-Delegation of Inspection Authority-Nursing Homes

Marylanders for Patient Rights is the leading patient advocacy coalition in our state, with 23 groups and a collective membership over a million people. We join AARP in strongly supporting the goal of SB376 to provide much needed protections for Maryland's most vulnerable population: nursing home residents.

The State has egregiously neglected to provide annual inspections of nursing homes, allowing residents to suffer horrifying physical and mental neglect and abuse. Heartbreaking examples of stories from nursing home residents have been detailed in the [lawsuit](#) filed by the Public Justice Center. These include patients who were left in their own waste, who never saw the light of day, and who developed painful Stage 2 pressure ulcers (bed sores).

With the abject failure of the Office of Health Care Quality to provide oversight of nursing homes on an annual basis or to respond promptly to complaints, concerned County leadership, upon request, should have the authority to conduct site visits and full inspections of nursing homes. The costs of those inspections should be borne equally by the Maryland Department of Health and the County.

SB376 will also address the problem that complaints from nursing home residents and their families may take the Maryland Dept. of Health many months to investigate, so that dangerous problems go unresolved. Those residents alleging immediate jeopardy will be investigated no later than 48 hours after the Maryland Department of Health receives the complaint.

Please provide a favorable report on SB376, and help to protect Maryland nursing home residents. Any one of us, or a loved one, could someday be a nursing home resident and want to be treated humanely with dignity, respect, and proper care.

Thank you,

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