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**HB 378 Prince George's County - Assisted Living Programs - Inspections PG 405-25**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**February 27, 2025**  
**FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland proudly represents over 850,000 members across the state, including some older Marylanders who rely on high-quality assisted living facilities to maintain their well-being and dignity.

AARP Maryland strongly supports HB 378, which requires the Maryland Department of Health to inspect all assisted living programs in Prince George's County at least once every 60 days and publish inspection reports within 30 days. These measures are essential to ensuring that older adults receive the care and respect they deserve in safe, well-regulated environments.

As Maryland's population ages, assisted living facilities play a critical role in supporting older adults who need assistance with daily activities while maintaining as much independence as possible. However, inconsistent oversight and a lack of transparency in facility conditions have raised concerns among residents, families, and advocates. Increased inspections and public reporting will promote accountability, enhance care quality, and provide families with the vital information they need when choosing a facility for their loved ones.

**Key Concerns in Assisted Living Facilities:**

- **Staffing shortages:** Many facilities struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff, leading to inadequate care and safety concerns.
- **Inadequate training:** Staff may lack sufficient training in dementia care, medication management, and fall prevention, impacting care quality.
- **High costs:** Assisted living is expensive and often financially out of reach for many seniors, particularly when additional medical care is needed.
- **Inconsistent quality of care:** Facility standards vary widely, making it critical for families to research options carefully.
- **Resident safety risks:** Issues like wandering behaviors in residents with dementia require proper monitoring and security measures.
- **Oversight and regulation challenges:** Current regulations may not ensure consistent quality of care across all facilities.

For many older Marylanders, assisted living is more than a service—it is their home. They deserve to live in environments free from neglect and substandard care. By increasing inspection frequency and requiring timely publication of reports, HB 378 prioritizes safety, staffing, and quality of care.

We commend the Prince George's County Delegation for introducing this important legislation and urge the committee to support HB 378 to protect Maryland's older adults and ensure the integrity and the quality of care of assisted living facilities across the county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully request the Committee issue a favorable report. AARP Maryland stands ready to work with you to advance policies that promote quality care, safety, and dignity for all older Marylanders. If you need to follow up, please contact me at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or 410-302-8451.