



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 429 - Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes

COMMITTEES: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 6, 2025

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

All CCRC communities offer various levels of care for senior citizens. One level of care in a CCRC is its nursing home that is licensed in Maryland through the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).

On behalf of the Maryland Continuing CARE Residents Association, we support House Bill 429. We do know that the MDH has failed to provide mandated annual inspection of nursing homes in the past several years. This bill will allow individual Counties to request that MDH delegate to a County the authority to conduct site visits and full surveys of nursing homes. The costs would be shared between County and State.

This is necessary because residents in nursing homes are among our most vulnerable Marylanders, and there have been incredibly sad and heartbreaking examples of patients who were mistreated in ways too horrible to detail. Examples can be found in the lawsuit filed by the Public Justice Center or talk to anyone who has filed a complaint with the MDH.

Assertive and timely oversight is needed; this Bill will help that happen as it is consistent with the duty of government to protect its citizens. All people, including residents of nursing homes, have a right to be treated with appropriate care and respect. The State of Maryland can fulfill its function of oversight in this regard better than it has in past years. This Bill will take a major step forward in Maryland government fulfilling that duty.

We ask for a favorable report on HB429.

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