



**TESTIMONY TO THE House Health and Government Operations COMMITTEE**

**HB 429 - Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**BY: Linda Kohn, President**

**DATE: February 6, 2025**

The League of Women Voters has long been a strong advocate for safe and adequate healthcare for all patients in any setting. The League has stated this in its Social Policy, Healthcare Policy, and Policy of Basic Human Rights positions.

Deficiencies in nursing home inspections in Maryland have been well documented in local and national media, as well as reports by federal and state regulatory agencies. This deficiency is long standing and was exacerbated by the Covid pandemic of 2020.

Conditions in some facilities are so deleterious that a class action lawsuit was filed in May 2024 on behalf of approximately 1900 facility residents in Maryland. These residents are dependent upon facilities to provide for all their needs.

HB 429 would provide for annual nursing home inspections and surveys. The bill would also address the complaint process for facility residents and families. An adequate number of trained inspectors could bring to light any deficiencies present in a facility and institute corrective measures.

The League of Women Voters joins Marylanders for Patient Rights in urging a favorable report for HB 429.