



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

SUBJECT: House Bill 576 – Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs – Video Recording
COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
DATE: February 13, 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, well-being, 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.

On behalf of the MaCCRA, we support House Bill 576. Consistent with our focus noted above, MaCCRA is concerned with those in our membership and others living in CCRC nursing homes and assisted living who are among the most vulnerable citizens in the State. However, due to low pay for caregivers (nurses, nurses aides, medical technicians, etc.), staffing shortages, and the growing cultural disparity between the caregiver and the cared-for, care can suffer. This reality can, and has, led to situations in which nursing home and assisted living residents experience theft and mental and physical abuse.

Providing video surveillance in the common areas of a nursing or assisted living facility is an inobtrusive means to help assure that unfortunate or wrongful actions do not befall residents. At the same time, by limiting video coverage to common areas, as defined in the bill, the right of residents and staff to a reasonable expectation of privacy is protected. Should an allegation of mistreatment or abuse be brought by a resident or a staff member, a video would provide a substantially unimpeachable form of evidence that would serve both legitimate prosecution and the opportunity for improvement in the performance of the facility.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 576

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