



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 576 - Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Video Recordings
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 13, 2025

OPPOSE

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 576. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 576 requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to install, operate and maintain video surveillance to detect patient abuse, neglect and exploitation. While the intent to protect vulnerable individuals is laudable, the bill's approach fails to address privacy protections, improvements in quality care, workforce retention, and support for direct care workers.

Protecting individuals and preventing abuse has roots in understaffing, lack of training, and nursing homes not investing in hiring and retaining qualified caregivers. Video surveillance does not address the severe understaffing and under-resourcing, but instead violates both workers' and residents' rights to privacy, limiting genuine patient interactions while also creating feelings of discomfort and anxiety. Rather than hold nursing home owners accountable for prioritizing direct care, it shifts the focus away from real solutions and does not ensure that resources go toward improving conditions for residents and staff.

To protect nursing home residents, we must address the severe workforce challenges by focusing on improving patient care, bolstering jobs and increasing investment in our nursing homes and encouraging financial transparency.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable vote on HB 576.