



Testimony on HB429

(MGA 2025)

Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Nursing Homes

Position: **FAV**

February 6, 2025

To Chair Pena-Melnyk and Health & Government Operations Committee Members:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, with 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington, DC.

1199SEIU urges a **favorable** report on HB429 which will require the Secretary of Health to delegate to a requesting county the authority to conduct site visits and full surveys of nursing homes.

Annual inspection of nursing home facilities is, of course, essential to the safety of residents. Importantly, regular inspections also ensure worker safety and training. Inspections reveal staffing ratios, worker training levels, and the adequacy of facilities. This bill addresses the lack of inspections of nursing home facilities by allowing local governments to conduct those inspections when they have the resources to do so.

MDH's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is charged with monitoring the quality of care, through surveys and inspections, in nursing homes as well as other health care facilities and community-based programs throughout Maryland. However,

interagency and intergovernmental cooperation is essential when the need for regular inspections is so great. All available resources should be utilized.

SEIU 1199 is always concerned about the delivery of quality health care to consumers as well as the workplace safety of its own hard-working members. The more opportunities to detect and cure deficiencies in a routine, non-emergency manner, the better off we all are.

We support HB429 and urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,
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