

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and Committee:

First, thank you for your service.

Seth Miller favorable with amendments.

The day after Christmas of 2018 I was in a horrific accident. I am blessed to be alive.

Among the places I was recovering were two Montgomery County skilled nursing facilities.

At one facility, a nurse did not wash a surgical wound. The wound became infected and reinfected.

After the second surgical washout, I was at Potomac Valley, Nursing and Rehab. The place

is a dump. They renovated. I did not have full use of three of four limbs. My first night I was put in a room with three other men. One man, John Ball got up and battered a paraplegic named Brian Benjamin. I told the nurse that if she did not call the police, I would call the state. I have the police report. The next night, Brian was slapped by a staff member. I called the police on my iPhone.

When I discharged, Brian's face was still black and blue. I complained to the Maryland Department of Health. They had already investigated and exonerated Potomac Valley. They did not make a site visit. That investigation was conducted by local investigators. They simply accepted the report of the Director of Nurses and patient's physician that there was no evidence of physical abuse. They get their pay from that place it is a conflict of interest.

Covid came. The Washington Post reports that the Maryland Department of Health fined the site, as they had Covid positive patients. Staff knew they had Covid positive patients. Staff chose not to isolate known Covid positive patients. Staff accepted known negative patients. Of those accepted negative, 10 contracted Covid. The death toll is now five.

I believe very strongly that had MDH listened when I complained about the attacks of my roommate Brian Benjamin the staff would've gotten it together and those five would be alive.

When asked how they verify the facilities have needed personal protective equipment a nurse surveyor said, "We just take their word for it." They take their word for a lot of things.

When local contractor authorization expired, I had the first site where the wound was not washed investigated. After a site visit a violation was assessed.

I ask that the bill be amended so that in the cases of the violent physical use of patients or allegations thereof site visits be mandatory and police body camera video on DVD be obtained through the Public Information Act. I ask for new staff.