

## **Opposition to Senate Bill 488**

Submitted by Don Kyle

Resident, Homewood Living Frederick

Before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee

Good Afternoon, Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Don Kyle, a resident at Homewood Living Frederick.

After visiting multiple Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC), my wife and I selected *Homewood at Frederick* for its great reputation, wonderful amenities, and its beautiful campus at the foot of the Catoclin Mountains. For the first year, we loved living there enjoying a quiet, tranquil, yet engaging atmosphere.

At the beginning of our second year (2025), this peaceful atmosphere erupted into an uproar with a petition being circulated with little or no explanation. Many residents signed the petition based on the word of those supporters' obtaining the signatures. I questioned 'why the need for a petition' when Homewood has a stated procedure in the handbook for grievance issues. I was shocked to ascertain that the "leaders" of this issue immediately began to involve the media, their political representatives, and an attorney before engaging our residents, campus administration and our corporate leadership.

It seems there are about a dozen leaders of this "uproar" that believe Homewood is a congregation, a club, or an organization where the residents must be informed about all corporate issues being evaluated, have the opportunity to discuss these issues, and finally have the ability to vote (up or down) on these same issues. There are already procedures in place for resident representation on the Board of Directors of Homewood at Frederick as well as corporate meetings with the CEO where residents can speak directly, and/or have questions answered.

Homewood is similar to other CCRC facilities in the state which have their own Boards of Directors providing senior care services. This bill is not needed and I speak in opposition to it. As stated earlier, there are resident organizations at Homewood and procedures in place to address grievances. This small group of "disgruntled leaders" chose to bypass these organizations, meetings, and procedures and move directly to the media, to politicians, and to attorneys.

Many residents that I have spoken with (the silent majority) are saddened that this issue has caused so much divisiveness. Many believe this adversarial relationship with our corporate administration is not good, and is the genesis of this bill in the legislature, the need for money from residents to pay attorneys, and the overall "*us versus them*" debate.

In my opinion there is no need for this bill, and if it passes, I have a difficult time trying to understand how a corporation that might own 7 CCRC facilities in the state of Maryland, all of which have a local governing Boards "providing services and administration", would now have to completely reorganize their administrative structure and by-laws.

My hope is that the "disgruntled dozen", that have caused our campus division, would promote a more inclusive environment by obviating further disruption and following established procedures. Again, I stand in opposition to this legislation.

Thank you for your kind attention to my concern and opinions.

*Don Kyle*

Homewood Living Frederick

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