



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

SUBJECT: **Senate Bill 340** – Nursing Facilities – Medicaid Quality Assessment – Funding of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
Pamela P. Beidle, Chair

DATE: February 6, 2026

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.

MaCCRA supports Senate Bill 340. The Maryland Department of Aging places the following on its website: “The Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for the health, safety, well-being, and rights of residents in assisted living and nursing homes. Ombudsmen work at the direction of the resident and only take action with the resident's consent. Ombudsman services are resident-directed, confidential and provided free of charge.

The Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program also improves the quality of care and increases the quality of life for over 54,000 Maryland residents living in long-term care by advocating for laws, regulations and policies that benefit residents. Ombudsmen visit Maryland’s 1,850 assisted living and nursing homes nearly 7,000 times each year, resolving approximately 3,300 complaints from residents.”

Clearly, this Ombudsman position directly benefits all residents living in long-term care communities by giving them a strong voice to articulate concerns related to their health, well-being, and care. To make sure that funding is provided, utilizing a percentage of Medicaid benefits is a creative way to strengthen and expand a program that has already proven itself to be of significant service to the most vulnerable of our elderly population.

We ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 340.

For further information please contact: Bruce Hartung, President
Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association c/o brucehartung@sbcglobal.net