



**Testimony before the House Health Committee
April 1, 2026**

**Senate Bill 493 - Nursing Facility Involuntary Discharge or Transfer
SUPPORT**

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) Committee on Aging, we would like to express our support for Senate Bill 493 - Nursing Facilities Involuntary Discharge or Transfer, as amended in the Senate.

As social workers who serve older adults, we are in favor of this bill because it strengthens the regulations that are currently in place for involuntary discharges or transfers from long-term care facilities.

The current regulations delineate only five reasons a nursing home resident can be involuntarily discharged or transferred. The regulations also state the specific process and details for this type of discharge. Proper, timely notification of the discharge or transfer is required, as well as notification for the resident's right to appeal it. The regulations were created to preserve the rights of nursing home residents and to ensure that they were not transferred for other reasons such as running out of financial resources or becoming eligible for Medicaid.

According to the State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, two of the top five complaints from residents and families are inadequate discharge planning and improper evictions from nursing home facilities. Families are often left in a panic as they struggle to find suitable care for their loved one after an abrupt discharge. The impact of involuntary discharge is difficult for both residents and their family.

Senate Bill 493 keeps the current regulations in place but goes further by requiring the receiving facility to be named on the discharge paperwork. In addition, the bill requires confirmation from the receiving facility that it will accept the resident and is prepared to receive the resident. The bill also provides more details to be included in the discharge notification, such as the name of the social worker who is designated to provide social services and discharge planning services to the resident.

The transition from the community to a nursing home is often difficult for families and residents. This difficulty is heightened by the fear the resident might be involuntarily discharged or transferred once they acclimate to the facility. Senate Bill 493 strengthens the regulations, thereby supporting the rights of nursing home residents. We ask for your favorable report on Senate Bill 493.

Respectfully,

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