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House Health Committee

March 4, 2026

House Bill 1563 – *Emergency Room Services and Post-Acute Care – Coverage and Facility Studies*

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community-based services, we **support with amendment** House Bill 1563, which requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission to conduct two studies – one on bed counts related to hospitals and post-acute care facilities and one on the transitions from hospitals to post-acute care facilities.

LifeSpan supports both studies. Transitions from an acute care facility to a post-acute care setting can present multifaceted challenges, many of which stem from staffing limitations and financial constraints. Financial constraints may include when health insurance carriers (often Medicare Advantage) fail to approve the nursing home stay. In addition, because nursing home reimbursement rates are expected to cover all required patient care, residents who require high-cost medications create financial challenges that facilities may struggle to absorb. Similarly, there may be limitations on nursing homes' ability to accept patients on certain behavioral health medications that would be classified as a “restraint” and not permitted in a nursing home. Staffing is also a significant concern, particularly on weekends. Ongoing workforce shortages mean that when staff call out, facilities may be unable to maintain required staffing ratios, limiting their ability to safely accept new admissions.

However, given the importance of these issues, LifeSpan respectfully requests that this study be conducted in consultation with the post-acute care industry. We request the following. With this amendment, we support House Bill 1563.

On pages 6 and 7, in lines 2 and 5, after “Commission” insert “AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POST-ACUTE CARE INDUSTRY”.

**Rationale: This amendment simply ensures that the Commissions consult with representatives from the post-acute care industries.**

**For more information call:**

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