



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

House Health Committee

February 25, 2026

House Bill 489 – *Electronic Health Networks and Electronic Medical Record Vendors of
Nursing Homes – Release of Records – Fees*

POSITION: OPPOSE

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 **respectfully oppose** House Bill 489. This bill repeals the current prohibition on an electronic health network (EHN) or electronic medical record (EMR) vendor contracted with a nursing home from charging a fee for releasing patient medical records or for electronic health care transactions. Thus, an EHN or EMR vendor may charge a fee when a nursing home directs them to release patient medical records or electronic health care transactions to a business associate.

As provided in the fiscal note, “*EHNs or EMR vendors may collect fees from a nursing home with which they contract when directed to release patient medical records or electronic health care transactions to a business associate of the nursing home.*”

The General Assembly enacted this statute during the 2023 Session. As introduced, the bill would have required CRISP to approve fees charged to business associates. Concerns were raised regarding this provision, and it was removed from the bill. However, no concerns were raised regarding the prohibition of charging any other fee for releasing patient medical records or for electronic health care transactions, which is the sole purpose of House Bill 489. LifeSpan does not believe it is appropriate to remove this prohibition, as it served as the basis for the nursing home industry's support for the bill in 2023. Without a clear public purpose for removing this prohibition, we request a vote against House Bill 489.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman

Christine K. Krone

410-244-7000