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In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cory V. McCray

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 96 – *Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans*

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 submit this **letter of information** for Senate Bill 96.

Senate Bill 96 requires those under Title 19 of the Health-General Article to have a safety plan. This includes nursing homes, assisted living communities, medical adult day centers, hospice programs and home health and home care agencies. Senate Bill 96 includes a provision that states that a facility may satisfy the requirements of this legislation if it has a safety plan that is submitted for another purpose. From the bill discussion last Session, it is our understanding that existing emergency and disaster plans would qualify under this provision. However, we would like confirmation/clarification that this is an accurate statement. A separate and additional plan would place an undue burden on these facilities. Therefore, we would request clarification in the bill that an emergency and/or disaster plan satisfies the requirement to implement a safety plan. Thank you.

For more information call:

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