



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 28, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **SB 720** State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators – Renaming and Licensure of Assisted Living Managers

Dear Senator Pinsky,

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging to express our strong support for SB 720, which would establish a licensing and regulatory system for assisted living managers. These are the individuals who oversee and are responsible for the day-to-day operation of assisted living facilities.

The Commission on Aging was established in 1974 to advise County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf. We are concerned that in Montgomery County, as in all of Maryland, vulnerable older residents of assisted living facilities are not receiving the quality of care they deserve because the person in charge of the facility may not have the background required to properly manage such a facility. Given that assisted living facilities are regulated under the Code of Maryland Regulations, which provides detailed requirements for procedural, safety and health protocols, the absence of a licensing requirement for the person overseeing the assisted living facility is a strange omission, but easily fixed by SB 720.

SB 720 would require that the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators become the State Board of Examiners of Long-Term Care Administrators eliminating the need to create and administer a new and distinct Board thereby reducing the administration costs of the bill. Beginning October 1, 2024, an individual must be licensed by this Board before practicing as an assisted living manager in Maryland, providing sufficient time for assisted living managers to become licensed. Further, the legislation considers the variety of assisted living facilities in Maryland and the differences in care needs of its residents by allowing the Board to establish different assisted living manager applicant requirements that correspond to the different levels of care and the number of beds in the assisted living facility.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging sees no downside to this proposed legislation, we believe it efficiently and effectively prevents unqualified individuals from overseeing the care of vulnerable residents of assisted living facilities. We strongly support SB 720.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Selter

Barbara Selter, Chair