



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 2, 2017

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 387

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

I write on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging in support of HB 387, the "Assisted Living and Program Transparency Act." The legislation would require assisted living programs that have websites, to post their most recent services disclosure statement on that website for members of the public to view.

Maryland law currently requires assisted living programs to provide their services disclosure statement upon request and as part of their marketing materials, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has developed a Uniform Disclosure Statement Form. These disclosure statements are not contracts, and they do not replace in-person visits, talking to residents, or meeting with staff. Rather, they describe an assisted living program's policies and services in a concise and uniform manner, so that consumers can compare programs and services and make informed decisions.

By requiring that assisted living programs also make this essential information available on their websites, HB 387 is both practical and empowering for consumers. It will reduce the need for family members and caregivers to make numerous telephone calls or visits to various assisted living programs as they search for the most appropriate residence for a loved one. We urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you

Noelle Heyman, Chair
Montgomery County Commission on Aging

cc. Delegate Marc Korman
Leslie Frey
John J. Kenney

Department of Health and Human Services

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