

Ms. Cole-

I am writing to you today as a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator operating Genesis Franklin Woods Center, a 117 bed skilled nursing center in Rosedale- Baltimore County, MD.

I understand that the MD Health Care Commission is recommending that applications to build new skilled nursing centers in the State will be approved to be built without evidence of demographic need.

While I understand that our system needs to review and eliminate duplicate, burdensome regulations and restrictions, I am adamantly opposed to this proposed concept.

Skilled nursing facilities in the State operate currently at an occupancy rate of 90% or below. Many patients that discharge from hospitals are now able to return home or receive post-acute treatment on an outpatient basis. These patients many times spent 2-4 weeks receiving post-acute services at skilled nursing centers. Allowing new centers to be built without regard for demographic need could result in excess beds in a certain area, possibly leading to providers inability to operate centers efficiently. This could also lead to staff layoffs , loss of jobs, and possible closure of centers.

Skilled nursing centers operate at their optimum potential when census is high- beds are filled. Centers are not turning away potential patients- they are working with hospitals and other referral agencies to place patients in their beds to assist patients in reaching their maximum potential through rehabilitation and other clinical services. As the majority of skilled nursing centers are certified for Medicare and Medicaid, and operate at 90% occupancy rate as mentioned earlier, there is no backlog of people on Medicaid unable to receive quality care at a skilled nursing center in Maryland.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with you, and hope that the MHCC withdraws this recommendation.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Have a happy holiday season.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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