



February 29, 2012

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1912

RE: HB665 – Senior Falls Prevention Act – **Oppose As Written**

Dear Delegate Hammen:

HB 665 proposes to proclaim a Fall Prevention Awareness Week and to develop a statewide protocol for home safety inspections. Whereas the Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the need to educate our community members on fall prevention and supports the efforts of the Assembly to raise this as a serious threat to our senior population, we oppose the bill as written.

The mandate for home inspections for any patient discharged from the hospital following a fall, as outlined in Section 2 item 1, is an important part of this bill and we are concerned in regards to the financial impact this home inspection would have on local health care providers. Currently, patients that are seen post hospitalization by home health or hospice providers receive a fall prevention screening and home safety assessment as part of the admission process. We want to ensure that no undue economic hardship be passed onto health provider agencies by having unrealistic inspection guidelines. We are also concerned about patients who are discharged from the hospital that do not receive in home services. Who would be required to do these inspections and how would it be reimbursed? We believe it critical that input from community providers be included in the development of this program and that identification of the financial burden be identified.

For these reasons the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, representing almost 500 members, opposes this bill as written and we respectfully request that your committee give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Joseph M. Getty  
Delegate Susan W. Krebs