

No. 19

(Senate Joint Resolution 13)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Levels of Care in Nursing Homes

FOR the purpose of requesting the United States Congress and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to eliminate artificial levels of care in nursing homes, authorized by Public Law 89-97 Titles XVIII, XIX and the Medical Care Program of Maryland.

WHEREAS, It has been recognized by both health authorities and the public that distinctions between [{"Intermediate A, Intermediate B" and "Domiciliary"}] levels of care of nursing home patients authorized by Public Law 89-97 Titles XVIII, XIX and required by the Medical Care Program of Maryland are largely a technical matter and do not reflect any real difference in the amount of care required by a nursing home patient; and

WHEREAS, To the extent that the levels do represent a needed variance in treatment, many patients are incorrectly categorized and therefore an incorrect monetary reimbursement is received for their treatment; and

WHEREAS, Many patients have stabilized in a particular level of a nursing home; and then transfer to a home of a different level, may unnecessarily upset both the patient and his family; and

WHEREAS, Guidelines establishing these arbitrary distinctions in Maryland of "Skilled" "Intermediate A", "Intermediate B" and "Domiciliary" nursing home patients authorized by Public Law 89-97 Titles XVIII, XIX [{"were enacted"}] and implemented at the [{"federal"}] State level [{"and, therefore,}] by Health Department regulations create [{"a national problem}] undue hardship to the citizens of Maryland requiring care in nursing homes and to their families ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to abandon artificial levels of care and replace them with the concept that nursing homes should be a place where a person can live with a full spectrum of health services without disruption and dislocation resulting from a move from one level to another; and be it further