

May 2, 2006

Ms. Veronica Damesyn
Executive Director
DC Health Care Association
1220 L Street, NW Suite 100-242
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Damesyn:

It has come to our attention that some nursing homes are attempting to discharge residents to homeless shelters in the District of Columbia. On behalf of the local shelter providers, we want to express our concern about this practice, because it is harmful to the residents of long-term care facilities and to the homeless population. The mission of homeless shelters is to assist the homeless in gaining access to basic essentials of life and to ensure that the rights of the homeless are protected. Causing an individual to become homeless so that he or she can enter a shelter overburdens a system already struggling to meet the needs of over 8,000 homeless men, women and children and violates DC and Federal law.

Homeless shelters should not be considered appropriate placements for nursing home residents, and all laws including the Model Discharge Plan (implemented by the Department of Health in 2002) must be followed. We look forward to your assistance in this regard.

Respectfully,

Nechama Masliansky
Co-Convenor of COHHO
Contact information:
So Others Might Eat
71 O St., NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-797-0701 ext. 107
nmasliansky@some.org