



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2020

Senate Bill 738: Health Care Providers and Health Benefit Plans -
Discrimination in Provision of Services

Written Testimony Only

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 738. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state. HFAM members provide quality and cost-efficient care to the majority of the 5.8 million total Medicaid patient days in Maryland skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers annually.

HFAM supports this legislation and its intent to prohibit health care providers and health benefit plans from withholding or denying medical services or otherwise discriminating against any individual with respect to their medical care because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or disability.

Health care providers and health benefit plans have an obligation to provide and manage care equally and without discrimination to all individuals regardless of the characteristics that this legislation protects. Individuals in need of healthcare deserve equal access to that care as long as the care sought can be clinically best provided. No individual should be turned away or denied care based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or disability.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 738.

Submitted by:

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