



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2022

Senate Bill 700: Maryland Department of Health - Prevent Workplace
Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup

Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 700. 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.

Senate Bill 700 requires the Secretary of Health to establish a Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to develop a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence in healthcare settings and to create a plan for implementing the campaign.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers in all settings have faced increased encounters with threats and harassment as they continue to provide quality care. Hostility and aggression towards healthcare professionals has grown over issues such as strict visitor restrictions and related COVID-19 policies, vaccination, and general misinformation.

While healthcare providers have been taking action to prevent workplace violence, we agree that increased public awareness of the magnitude and consequences associated with workplace violence in healthcare settings will help combat this unfortunate reality.

Especially considering staffing shortages we already face in healthcare, it is critical that we give our healthcare heroes the support they need so they feel safe while doing their jobs to care for our family, friends, and neighbors.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 700.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132