



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0945 – Nursing Homes – Complaints – Notification and Consultation – FAVORABLE**

**Bill Sponsor: Delegate Sample-Hughes**

**Committee: Health**

**Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition**

**Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0945 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our work is rooted in the belief that government should protect people's lives, health, and dignity, especially in moments of crisis.

HB0945 does exactly that.

This bill ensures that when a complaint alleging actual harm is made against a nursing home, the Maryland Department of Health does not act in isolation, but immediately notifies and consults with the local health department in the county where the facility is located. It requires prompt notification, coordination with the local health officer, and alignment of the investigation and response with the urgent needs of residents who may be at risk.

These protections are not theoretical. They are urgently needed.

**Nursing home residents are among our most vulnerable neighbors—older adults and people with complex medical needs who are often unable to advocate for themselves.** When complaints allege actual harm or immediate jeopardy, every hour matters. Fragmented communication between state and local agencies can lead to:

- Delayed investigations and interventions when residents may still be in danger.
- Gaps in information about facility conditions, prior complaints, or community health concerns.
- Inconsistent oversight and follow-up, especially in jurisdictions with limited resources.

By requiring the Department to immediately notify the local health department and, to the extent practicable within existing investigation timelines, consult and coordinate on the complaint and response, HB0945 strengthens oversight where it matters most on the ground, in the communities where residents live, and families worry.

This bill aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It strengthens healthcare oversight, advances public safety, protects older adults and people with disabilities, and promotes accountability in facilities entrusted with residents' lives and well-being.

**No one living in a nursing home should be left in harm's way because agencies failed to communicate or coordinate in time.** HB0945 helps ensure that doesn't happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB0945.**