

Testimony: HB945

Subject: Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation

To: House of Delegates and The Health Committee

Date: February 24, 2026

As local business owners, we know our businesses are only as strong as the communities that support us. Nursing homes are more than just healthcare facilities; they are some of our largest local employers and key components of our local infrastructure.

When a facility in our town is under investigation for actual harm, it isn't just a regulatory "glitch"—it is a failure that ripples through our entire community.

Many business owners have parents or spouses in these local facilities. When a facility is unsafe, and the local health department is left in the dark, the resulting family crises lead to absenteeism, lost productivity, and extreme emotional distress for our local workforce.

Our local emergency services and health departments are the first to respond when things go wrong. Denying them immediate information about state-level investigations into "actual harm" prevents them from allocating resources efficiently and protecting the surrounding community.

As business owners. If we don't keep our licenses and follow safety protocols, our local community will know. If we don't file our annual report, our business is listed "Not in Good Standing" on the State website. Our seniors—and the families who pay for their care—deserve the same market transparency we expect in every other sector of our economy.

When the State Department of Health investigates in a vacuum, local leaders are left sidelined. As business owners, we understand that delayed information is useless information. Efficiency and safety are not at odds. By mandating that the state notify local health departments immediately, we are ensuring that our local safety net can catch those whom the system has already failed."

A town where the most vulnerable are at risk is a town that is struggling to thrive. We invest in our local health departments so they can protect us. Let them do their jobs.

We urge this committee to support a mandatory notification loop. Let's ensure that when "actual harm" occurs, the response is as local, as fast, and as transparent as possible. Our families, our workers, and our local economy depend on it.

Respectfully submitted,

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President

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