



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony**

**Consumer Health Information – Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the State’s  
Consumer Health Information Hub – Repeal**

**Delegate Aaron Kaufman**

**Hearing Date: 2/17/26 at 1:00 PM**

Good morning Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, my name is Delegate Aaron Kaufman, and I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 822. I was so moved by the Hub’s briefing a few weeks ago and the impressive work that they do. I want that vital work to continue.

Maryland has made nation-leading investments in clear health communication. In 2022, Madame Speaker established the Maryland Consumer Health Information Hub through HB1082 to advance health literacy, plain language, and language access statewide. The Hub,



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housed at the University of Maryland's Horowitz Center for Health Literacy ensures people can find and understand health information.

In just two and a half years, the Hub has strengthened relationships with state agencies, local health departments, and community organizations across Maryland. It has developed practical tools such as the Maryland Plain Language Checklist, web content review tools, criteria for grants and media campaigns, and a Plain Language and Language Access Action Planning Guide. It also created the Maryland Health Literacy Organizational Seal Program, recognizing agencies that institutionalize clear communication standards.

The Hub supports the public health workforce directly. It provides health literacy training for community health workers to reduce misinformation and distrust, address cultural and linguistic barriers, and



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help residents navigate complex health systems. It offers webinars, convenings, and peer collaboration spaces so agencies can share best practices and modernize communication tools.

State and local partners have emphasized that implementing plain language as a routine way of operating requires leadership support, coordination, and sustained infrastructure. This bill ensures that the Hub remains in statute beyond the current sunset date, allowing Maryland to continue institutionalizing clear communication statewide. It also removes the mandatory appropriation requirement, providing fiscal flexibility while preserving annual reporting and oversight.

This legislation does not expand regulatory authority. It sustains a communication infrastructure that improves transparency, strengthens

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public trust, supports language access, and advances Maryland's  
broader public health goals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report.