



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 18, 2020

Senate Bill 716: Maryland Council on Health in All Policies – Establishment  
*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 716. 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 the majority of Medicaid patient days in Maryland skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers annually.

HFAM supports this legislation. We applaud its sponsors and the Finance Committee for advancing this important work. Recognizing healthcare disparity, prioritizing health equity, valuing diversity and inclusion, and integrating the planning and execution of healthcare policy are critical as we move toward a healthier Maryland for all. The creation of the interagency council outlined in this legislation is an important step and has tremendous potential; that said, the council outlined here is large and includes several state departments whose work is connected by other provisions in Maryland law. The framing of the council around healthcare disparity, health equity, diversity, and inclusion is new and a key component of SB 716.

HFAM members provide more than 4 million days of Medicaid supported quality care to Marylanders in need who would otherwise be receiving care in hospitals at a higher cost and farther from home. As providers of the clear majority of long-term care Medicaid days annually, our members are a critical part of the healthcare safety net in Maryland. The Committee might consider adding HFAM to the Council to join the Maryland Hospital Association and others that are identified in the legislation.

**For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 716.**

*Submitted by:*

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