



**Testimony before Senate Finance Committee
House Bill 207: Nursing Homes-Resident Change in Condition-Notification and
Consultation with Physician**

****SUPPORT****

March 23, 2021

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) Committee on Aging, we would like to express our support for House Bill 207-Nursing Homes-Resident Change in Condition-Notifications.

This bill requires nursing homes to provide notification to a resident, their resident's family member or designated representative immediately following a significant change in the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial status, and consult with their physician. Current statute requires family notification be provided "in a timely manner".

HB 207 is consistent with federal nursing home standards which require a long-term care facility to immediately inform the resident, consult the resident's physician, and notify the resident's representative when there is an accident involving the resident that results in injury and has potential for requiring physician intervention, a significant change in the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial status, a need to alter treatment significantly or a decision to transfer or discharge the resident from the facility (42 CFR § 483.10(g)(14)). This bill clarifies Maryland's expectations, providing standards against which compliance can be measured.

Family members and close friends are essential care partners to nursing home residents, and providing them with prompt notification of changes in their resident allows them to advocate and provide care at the highest level.

This bill will result in better outcomes for long-term care residents in Maryland.

We urge you to vote FAVORABLY on HB 207.

Thank you,
NASW-MD Committee on Aging