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House Bill 207 Nursing Homes - Resident Change in Condition - Notification

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 3, 2021

Position: Support

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is the state's only volunteer, nonprofit citizen's organization that brings together consumers, families, professionals, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and mental illness. We appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 207.

HB 207 seeks to add clarity to the timeliness of notification to a nursing home resident and, if applicable, their family when there is a change in condition of the resident. This bill is replacing the language that a nursing home shall make the notification in a timely manner to instead require notification be made within 24 hours of any change in condition.

These changes in condition – meaning a significant change in the resident's physical, mental, or psychological status – include incidents such as the onset of periods of delirium, onset of depression, onset of aggressive behavior, the need to discontinue medication or treatment for certain reasons, and more.

By ensuring that residents and families are involved in timely updates around their care, this bill would help to further support the delivery of services to Maryland's older adults in nursing homes. The Mental Health Association of Maryland supports the goals and intents of this bill and urges a favorable report on House Bill 207.

For more information contact:

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