



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

February 9, 2021

House Bill 548: Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 548. 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 post-acute and long-term care to Marylanders in need: 6 million days of care across all payer sources annually, including more than 4 million Medicaid days of care and one million Medicare days of care. Thousands of Marylanders across the state depend on the high-quality services that our skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers offer every day.

House Bill 548 would establish the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care. This Commission would assist in identifying state programs that impact children, youth, families, and older adults and assist in developing a statewide strategy toward an organizational culture shift into a trauma-response state government. The Commission would establish metrics for evaluating progress, coordinate trauma-informed care training, and disseminate information regarding best practices. In addition, the Commission would submit an annual report on its findings and recommendations.

Trauma informed care is a treatment framework that recognizes, understands, and responds to the fact that many people have lasting effects from adverse life experiences. It emphasizes physical, emotional, and psychological safety of both residents and staff and helps survivors recover control.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the implementation of trauma-informed care practices in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. HFAM has previously offered trauma-informed care training programs for the benefit of providers to improve the quality of care delivered to Marylanders in need. We strongly believe in the importance of a statewide trauma-informed care approach across all settings of healthcare.

For these reasons we request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 548.

Submitted by:

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