



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

February 22, 2021

House Bill 1261: Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Advance Directives – Electronic Execution  
*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 1261. 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 1261 would authorize the electronic execution and remote witnessing of wills, powers of attorney, and advance directives under certain requirements.

As many residents and patients in long-term and post-acute care are older, may be disabled, or have some form of dementia, these sorts of documents are commonplace and are often created or updated for those in our settings.

As we all know, law often lags behind technology. With the social distancing requirements put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that important legal documents such as wills, powers of attorney, and advance directives can be signed and executed electronically and remotely.

**For these reasons, we support House Bill 1261 and request a favorable report from the Committee.**

*Submitted by:*

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