



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1082 - Public Health - Consumer Health Information - Hub and Requirements

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center supports *House Bill 1082 – Public Health – Consumer Health Information – Hub and Requirements*. The legislation recognizes that the University of Maryland Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub.

Our organization’s mission is to support our clients in the community in achieving their aspirations for independence, health, and meaningful community life. Under programs sponsored by the Department of Health, we provide care coordination services for individuals with complex medical conditions. One of our primary responsibilities is to support families navigating complex health care systems to obtain needed at-home and specialty care services. Health literacy is key to our clients’ success.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration under the Department of Health and Human Services, health literacy is “(t)he degree to which individuals can obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services necessary to make appropriate health decisions.”ⁱ However, not all State and local agencies have the internal resources to integrate the principle of health literacy into their programs. This legislation would support consumers in Maryland because State and local agencies could turn to the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub in creating materials ranging for eligibility applications to guidance about public health issues.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/health-literacy/culture-language-and-health-literacy>