



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

Senate Bill 797: Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse

February 23, 2023

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 Senate Bill 797. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 797 establishes the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse and requires the Task Force to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2024.

As this legislation states, a very small percentage of older adults live in nursing homes or assisted living centers. Most older adults live in the community and unfortunately 1 in 60 adults aged 60 and older are being abused. Most cases of elder abuse, including financial exploitation, are not reported to authorities.

This legislation will create a Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse to study existing laws and practices related to elder abuse and make recommendations to combat crimes commonly committed against older adults. The information gathered and recommendations made by this task force will be crucial to updating laws, policies, and practices to better protect older adults throughout Maryland.

Together, we have a shared goal of protecting the safety and well-being of our older adult community members and ensuring that their rights are respected. Senate Bill 797 is a step in the right direction to achieve this goal and to promote the safety, well-being, and healthy aging of older Marylanders.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 797.

Submitted by:

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