



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

February 27, 2024

Senate Bill 729: Security Guards - Use of Force Reporting - Health Care-Related Physical Interventions
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for Senate Bill 729.

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. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 729 provides that a health care-related physical intervention does not constitute use of force for purposes relating to a certain report required to be made to the Secretary of State Police; and prohibits a certain report from including information that is prohibited from disclosure by State or federal law.

On Page 2, Line 1, the language refers to a "Doctor" or "Nurse." We respectfully request that the bill also includes a Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. These disciplines provide critical care and direction in healthcare facilities that may fall under the scope of this legislation and thus should be included.

Use of force in healthcare settings may involve a variety of circumstances including patient restraint, patient elopement, involuntary commitment, or criminal incidents. Doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants may direct such healthcare related interventions as necessary while providing care. These incidents may pose a risk of injury to patients, residents, staff, and visitors. It is of utmost importance that healthcare settings provide a safe environment and follow statute and best practices regarding use of force.

For these reasons, and with the proposed amendment, we request a favorable report on SB 729.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132