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Legislative District 12A

Howard County

Health and Government Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority Health Disparities



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## **SUPPORT**

## HB 1478-Public Health-Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Healthcare Providers

March 25, 2025

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and the Members of the Finance Committee

**HB 1478** takes a step towards improving Marylander's access to qualified home healthcare providers by requiring the Maryland Department of Health to submit a report on the viability of establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible, online directory of certified and licensed healthcare providers across the state. This bill passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support **(137-0)**.

The key question for workgroup consideration is how we might best create a directory that allows individuals seeking home healthcare services to identify available home care providers based on searchable criteria such as language proficiency, certification, and previous experience.

In developing the report MDH, in consultation with stakeholders, will examine:

- the types of online home healthcare directories implemented in other states;
- what information is both useful and appropriate to include;
- existing directories, such as those provided by the Maryland Healthcare Commission, MDH's Office of Healthcare Quality, and local jurisdictions that might be useful to build upon; and
- the costs and potential funding sources from state, federal, or alternative funds.

**HB1478** is a step toward making the task of identifying qualified home care providers to match a patient's particular needs more efficient, effective, and less stressful.

I urge a favorable report.