



Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

House Bill 1478 – *Public Health – Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers*

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA), whose members include Medicare-certified home health agencies, private duty companies, and durable medical equipment suppliers across the State, we support House Bill 1478. As amended by the House, House Bill 1478 requires the Maryland Department of Health, with affected stakeholders, to examine the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers for purposes of: (1) allowing an individual seeking home health care services to identify a home health care provider in a statewide directory based on specified criteria, such as language proficiency, certifications, previous experience, or special skills; and (2) supporting statewide communication to home health care providers for: (i) retention and recruitment by helping individuals to become and remain enrolled as home- and community-based service providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; (ii) workforce development by connecting home health care providers to training and workforce development opportunities that support consumers' specific health needs; and (iii) facilitating communication with home health care providers in the event of a public health or other emergency.

As Maryland's population ages, it is important to ensure that residents can access necessary healthcare services to meet their needs. As initially introduced, House Bill 1478 would have required the employees of residential service agencies to be individually listed in a directory, which MNCHA opposes. However, we do support examining how the State can better develop tools to assist consumers in accessing the appropriate services and look forward to working on this issue over the interim.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 1478.

For More Information:

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