



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 21, 2025

Bill Number: HB1478

Bill Title: Public Health - Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers -

Committee: Senate Finance

Position: **FAVORABLE ON BILL AS AMENDED**

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this favorable as amended testimony on House Bill (HB) 1478 - Public Health - Home Health Care Providers - Directory.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. As amended this bill charges the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Department of Aging and other key stakeholders, with completing a report on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers.

MDOA remains supportive of a statewide directory that supports the workforce caring for older adults as well as older adults and their families in accessing home care. Several other states have adopted similar registries. PHI and the National Alliance for Caregiving, national organizations focused on strengthening the care workforce, recommend the creation of matching service registries as effective vehicles for connecting individuals, families, and direct care workers.¹ HB1478 as amended aligns squarely with MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative and MDOA is ready to play a supporting role through MDH on this report. MDOA appreciates the

¹ PHI, National Alliance for Caregiving, "Together in Care" Issue Brief, June, 2024, p. 14, *available at*: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64f13c772cfec42625cbdfa2/t/6686b5b3991bb54becce4163/1720104376140/TogetherinCare_IssueBrief_June_24.pdf



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work of the bill sponsor, MDH and other stakeholders on the amendments that convert this bill into a thorough report that will position Maryland well for future action. MDOA is comfortable with its supporting role in this bill and ready for consult with MDH on this report. **For these reasons MDOA requests a favorable report on HB 1478 as amended.**

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging