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SUPPORT

HB1478 - Residential Service Agencies – Home Health Care Providers – Directory

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

HB1478 improves access to qualified home healthcare workers for Maryland residents, by creating and maintaining an online directory of certified and licensed home healthcare providers. Home healthcare services provide a range of crucial medical services to patients across Maryland. However, language, unique needs, and availability of care can function as barriers to utilizing this life-saving care.

The directory will allow individuals to search for providers based on criteria like language proficiency, certifications, and unique skills.

Key Provisions:

- Creates a comprehensive online directory, ensuring transparency and allowing residents to easily search for qualified home health care providers based on specific criteria such as language proficiency, certifications, experience, and specific skills.
- Empower consumers to make informed decisions regarding their home health care needs, ensuring they receive the best possible care.
- May evolve to facilitate the recruitment and retention of qualified home health care providers, offering them access to training, professional development, health insurance, and other benefits.
- Streamline the process of connecting individuals seeking home and community-based services with qualified providers, enhancing service delivery efficiency.

HB 1478 will help loved ones better negotiate the difficult challenge in challenging times of finding caring, competent, dependable, and trustworthy support to the loved one depending on them to do what they cannot do for themselves.

I urge a favorable report on **HB 1478**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill".