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Howard County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Health Facilities

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities



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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,

Home healthcare services provide a range of crucial medical services to patients across Maryland. However, language, unique needs, and availability of care can act as barriers to utilizing this life-saving care. **HB1478** ensures equitable access for all Maryland residents by creating and maintaining an online directory of home healthcare providers authorized by residential service agencies.

The directory will allow individuals to search for providers based on criteria like language proficiency, certifications, and special skills. It also aims to support the recruitment and retention of qualified providers and facilitate state oversight by including functionalities like background checks and verification of qualifications.

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 special skills.
- Empower consumers to make informed decisions regarding their home health care needs, ensuring they receive the best possible care.
- 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.
- Ensures that sensitive information collected is not disclosed to the public, maintaining the privacy and security of providers' data.

In conclusion, **HB 1478** is a forward-thinking and essential piece of legislation that enhances transparency, improves healthcare outcomes, supports caregivers, and strengthens state oversight of home healthcare services.

I urge the Committee to give a favorable report to **HB 1478** and support the establishment of this much-needed online directory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Hill".