HB0333_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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<u>TESTIMONY ON HB#/0333 - FAVORABLE</u>
Cybersecurity - Healthcare Ecosystem

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0333**, Cybersecurity - Healthcare Ecosystem**

Following the recent ransomware attack that interfered with the function of the Frederick Health Hospital system [1] this bill is a response to protecting the health care infrastructure in Maryland.

> Cybersecurity in healthcare involves the protecting of electronic information and assets from unauthorized access, use and disclosure. There are three goals of cybersecurity: protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information, also known as the "CIA triad." [2]

This bill seeks to harden the systems that define the information technology employed in Maryland in support of medical facilities. As detailed by the American Hospital Association Center for Health Innovation in their paper on *The importance of cybersecurity in protecting patient safety* [3]

> Health care organizations continually face evolving cyberthreats that can put patient safety at risk. That's why I advise hospital C-suite and other senior leaders not to view cybersecurity as a purely technical issue falling solely under the domain of their IT departments. Rather, it's critical to view cybersecurity as a patient safety, enterprise risk and strategic priority and instill it into the hospital's existing enterprise, risk-management, governance and business-continuity framework.

> Aligning cybersecurity and patient safety initiatives not only will help your organization protect patient safety and privacy but will also ensure continuity of effective delivery of high-quality care by mitigating disruptions that can have a negative impact on clinical outcomes.

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[1] https://www.securityweek.com/frederick-health-hit-by-ransomware-attack/

[2] https://gkc.himss.org/resources/cybersecurity-healthcare

[3] https://www.aha.org/center/cybersecurity-and-risk-advisory-services/importance-cybersecurity-protecting-patient-safety

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This bill tackles those problems by requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Insurance Administration to include a cybersecurity expert as staff to perform certain functions and submit to the State Chief Information Security Officer a report on the cybersecurity practices and policies of certain healthcare ecosystem entities on a certain basis.

This bill will also require healthcare ecosystem entities to take certain actions related to cybersecurity as recommended by multiple healthcare security issues advisors and government bodies. The attack on Frederick Health has shown this is a critical need if we are to protect ourselves and our medical providers from this type of damage.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0333.

1