

HB0931_CrossoverBill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0931- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Medical Director Requirements

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0931, **Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Medical Director Requirements**

This bill is personal to me. My late son was in a long-term care facility for a number of years from 2019 – 2023. When the original control of that facility was passed to a new corporate owner the new and current Executive Director lists on her LinkedIn profile a specialization in social work, not a medical degree. Our problems in the quality of his care we were forced to advocate to nursing and social services in the facility with limited interaction with medical doctors involved in his care. The Executive Director had a mostly hands-off approach when I spoke to her about the level of care he was receiving rather than treating medical issues herself and then referring me to others on the staff.

This bill combats this cavalier treatment of patient's medical issues by requiring a physician, in order to be designated as a medical director of a nursing home, to hold a certain medical director certification or be making active progress toward obtaining the certification; prohibiting a physician from being a designated medical director at more than two licensed nursing homes; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish and maintain an online directory of nursing home medical directors.

Long-term care facilities should, in my opinion, always have a Medical Director available to deal with patient needs and patient care.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#0931.