

HB0945 Crossover Bill RichardKaplowitz FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0945- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation

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#0945, **Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation**

This bill is personal to me. My late son was in a long-term care facility for a number of years from 2019 – 2023. We jointly consulted with the Health Care Ombudsman at the Frederick County Department of Health on multiple occasions. This bill will set a fixed time for response by state and local health departments adjudicating complaints of nursing home activity featuring possible harm to the patient population.

The bill states the Department shall initiate an investigation into a nursing home complaint alleging actual harm within 10 business days after receiving the complaint.

If the department initiates an investigation of a nursing home complaint ... the department shall:

- notify immediately the local health department for the county in which the nursing home is located;
- to the extent practicable within the time requirements established consult and coordinate with the local health officer on the complaint investigation and response.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to notify and consult with the local health department for the county in which a nursing home is located if the Department initiates an investigation of a nursing home complaint alleging actual harm.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#0945.