



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary  
March 31, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 945 – Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Notification of Investigations and Establishment of the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 945- Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Notification of Investigations and Establishment of the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative.

As amended, HB 945 requires the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to notify the Local Health Department (LHD) for the county in which the nursing home is located within 24 hours, after initiating an investigation that alleges actual harm or immediate jeopardy. This notification promotes collaboration and coordination between OHCQ and LHDs when high priority investigations are initiated.

Further, HB 945 as amended establishes the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative within the Department. The “QI Initiative” shall be carried out by a two year task force whose primary purpose is to identify strategies to improve the quality of care, as well as affordability and accessibility of services, with a focus on nursing home and assisted living programs.

The QI Initiative consists of key state agencies dedicated to advancing health care and requires collaboration with other stakeholders when studying policy recommendations. As amended, HB 945 represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to efforts to further strengthen oversight and improve the quality of care across Maryland’s nursing homes and assisted living providers. The bill creates a collaborative, transparent framework for developing meaningful policy recommendations to the Secretary, with input from subject matter experts and the public, while protecting confidential medical review committee material that is not subject to public disclosure.

The Department remains committed to patient safety, accountability and continuous quality improvement and asks for a favorable report on HB 945 as amended. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at [Meghan.Lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:Meghan.Lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D  
Secretary of Health