



STORIES LOVE MUSIC INC
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This testimony is in support of *Maryland HB 945 (2026 session), titled "Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation,"* requires the *Maryland Department of Health* to notify and consult with local health departments when investigating nursing home complaints that allege actual harm to residents.

My name is Ilyana Kadushin and since 2017 I have been the Executive Director of *Stories Love Music*, a 501 c3 that designed and offers a personalized training program for professional and family caregivers who work with senior citizens in memory care units, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospitals and private homes. I have seen firsthand how challenging working in senior care can be and how when those challenges are not dealt with, have led to employee retention issues and a massive log of complaints in these nursing home environments, we are well beyond the tipping point. *Maryland's Office of Health Care Quality* is not adequately supervising the care of Maryland nursing home patients. OHQC is leading the country in the percent of overdue nursing home surveys, caused, in part, by a lack of surveyors. Maryland's surveyors are required to be RN's and the RN continued staffing shortage has impacted the state's own oversight mechanism. Maryland is one of only three states in the country that have failed to conduct annual surveys in over 80% of their nursing facilities in the past 12 months. (Overdue Recertification Surveys Report, Quality, Certification and Oversight 10 Office of Health Care Quality, Annual Report and Staffing Analysis FY21-FY24)

Creating better channels of communication between nursing homes and local health departments; to respond and consult with local resources is absolutely vital for this ongoing issue in senior care.

Thank you,

Ilyana Kadushin