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BILL: HB965
TITLE: Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/23/2026
COMMITTEE: Health
SPONSOR: Delegate Teresa Woorman

Written Testimony in Support of HB965 - Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council

Chair and Members of the House Health Committee,
I am writing to express my strong support for HB965, which establishes the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council. The creation of this Council is both urgent and essential for restoring and maintaining high standards within Maryland's health care system.

- I am deeply concerned about the current lack of adequate oversight by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), which has led to a decline in the quality of care and increased public concern about the safety and well-being of patients in our facilities.
- Establishing the Stakeholder Advisory Council will unite diverse perspectives—including patients, providers, advocates, and experts—which is vital for identifying challenges and developing solutions to improve health care quality.
- As a non-regulatory forum, the Council will promote open engagement and transparency on pressing health care issues. This structure allows honest discussion and collaborative problem-solving without the barriers of regulation.
- By providing constructive feedback, the Council will help restore public trust in our health care system, ensuring that stakeholders' voices are heard and acted upon.
- Most importantly, HB965 will help return OHCQ to its vital oversight function, reversing the trend of declining quality in Maryland health care facilities and ensuring that all Marylanders receive safe, high-quality care.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB965 and the establishment of the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council. This bill is a critical step toward improving oversight, transparency, and trust in Maryland's health care system. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Wandra Ashley-Williams

Formal Vice President of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP and the NAACP National Board of Directors

Member of Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Board of Directors

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