



TESTIMONY FOR HB1002 – Nursing Facilities – Involuntary Discharge or Transfer – FAVORABLE

Bill Sponsor: Delegates Lopez, Foley, Kaufman, and Wims

Committee: Health

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Jessica Gorski**, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of **HB1002** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our mission is to promote legislation that strengthens education, healthcare, public safety, environmental protection, and social justice—ensuring that every Marylander has access to the resources and opportunities needed to thrive.

HB1002 directly advances that mission by strengthening protections for nursing facility residents who face involuntary discharge or transfer, one of the most frequent and destabilizing issues reported to long-term care ombudsman programs.

This bill updates and modernizes Maryland’s requirements for discharge notices, timelines, and transition planning. It ensures that residents and families receive clear, timely, and comprehensive information when a facility seeks to discharge or transfer a resident. **HB1002 also prohibits facilities from discharging individuals to unsafe or inappropriate settings and requires confirmation that a receiving location is prepared to meet the resident’s needs.**

These provisions are both practical and urgently needed.

Involuntary discharges often result in dangerous gaps in care, medication interruptions, avoidable hospitalizations, and significant trauma for elderly and disabled Marylanders. Families are frequently left scrambling with little notice and inadequate support. HB1002 closes these gaps by ensuring that discharges are lawful, transparent, and centered on resident safety and not facility convenience.

By strengthening notice requirements and mandating meaningful transition planning, this bill helps ensure continuity of care, reduces emergency interventions, and supports better health outcomes for residents with complex medical needs. These protections are especially critical for individuals who lack strong family support systems or who are at heightened risk of exploitation or neglect.

HB1002 also reflects a trauma-informed and equity-centered approach. Involuntary discharges disproportionately impact low-income residents, individuals with chronic illnesses, and marginalized communities. Ensuring that residents are not uprooted from their care without proper safeguards affirms Maryland's commitment to dignity, fairness, and humane treatment for all.

HB1002 aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It strengthens public safety, protects vulnerable residents, and promotes equitable access to stable, high-quality long-term care. By ensuring that all individuals in nursing facilities receive clear, consistent, and enforceable protections, this legislation reinforces Maryland's commitment to safeguarding its most vulnerable residents.

We urge the Committee to support this thoughtful, necessary, and community-centered legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB1002**.