

HB0965_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/25/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0965- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment – Procedures

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health 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 HB#/0965, **Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council – Establishment**

This bill is personal to me. During my late son's illnesses, I was frequently forced to confront two of the long-term care and rehabilitation facilities he was residing in for lack of quality care to his needs. I forced staff meetings at the facilities to hear our complaints which I documented in writing and required them to answer and address. In both places the administration admitted to me that my strong advocacy for my son made a difference in how they cared for him.

Not every patient has a father who knows the system and is willing to challenge it as an advocate for a family member. This vital bill can correct that lack of advocacy by establishing the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council to provide feedback to the Office of Health Care Quality regarding maintaining oversight of health care facilities and to notify the Secretary of Health if the Office is negligent in providing oversight of health care facilities; and requiring the Advisory Council, beginning in 2027, and by December 1 annually, to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Those reports can guide the legislature and the Attorney General to determine appropriate measures and laws to increase health care quality in every facility within Maryland. Maryland can lead the nation in ensuring appropriate care standards apply in our state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0965.