



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 11, 2021

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair, House Health & Government Operations  
Committee

Re: Letter of Concern- House Bill 228 – University of Maryland Medical System – Applicability  
of the Public Information Act & Open Meetings Act

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health  
systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 322.

The University of Maryland Medical System's health care facilities in downtown Baltimore were  
originally state-owned and operated as part of the University System of Maryland. To avert a  
very serious financial crisis at these facilities, the General Assembly passed legislation in 1984  
separating the major health care delivery components of the University of Maryland Baltimore,  
and mandated their transfer to the Medical System, which was established under the Maryland  
General Corporation Law as a private, non-stock corporation.

The University of Maryland Medical System is not a state agency and has been granted 501(c)3  
status by the federal government. Although the governor appoints the Board of Directors, the  
State has no other involvement in the operations of the System. Requiring a private hospital  
system to comply with the Open Meetings Law and Public Information Act provisions required  
of state agencies is concerning. The University of Maryland Medical System is integral to  
Maryland's health care delivery system and this bill would be uniquely disadvantageous to the  
System and would not be beneficial to patient care.

Every Maryland hospital is a private nonprofit organization and this bill could potentially set a  
concerning precedent for not just hospitals but other nonprofit organizations. We appreciate your  
consideration of these concerns on HB 228.

For more information, please contact:  
Brian Frazee, Vice President, Government Affairs  
Bfrazee@mhaonline.org