January 14, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 224- Department of Information Technology- Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards

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 224. The legislation requires the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), in consultation with the Health Occupations Boards, to review the disparate technology platforms used by each of the twenty boards and develop recommendations on the feasibility of creating a common platform. The bill requires this study to address creating a standardized method of presenting information on regulated health care providers to the public.

Understanding the supply of health care providers is essential to ensuring accessing to health care services. Currently, many of the boards are unable to provide even the most basic data on the number and distribution of licensed health care providers throughout the state of Maryland. MHA believes this data should be available publicly and easily accessible for study of Maryland's health care workforce.

A common platform is a necessary foundation to increase transparency, reliability and availability of data each of the boards collect on the providers they regulate. A highly trained, fully engaged and diverse workforce is essential for Maryland's hospitals to deliver the best care and provide a superior experience for patients. Understanding the current supply of health care workers throughout the state is vital to providing adequate access to health care services throughout the state.

For these reasons, MHA urges a favorable report on House Bill 224.

For more information, please contact:
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