PROTECT MARYLAND HEALTH CARE HEROES FROM UNDUE LITIGATION

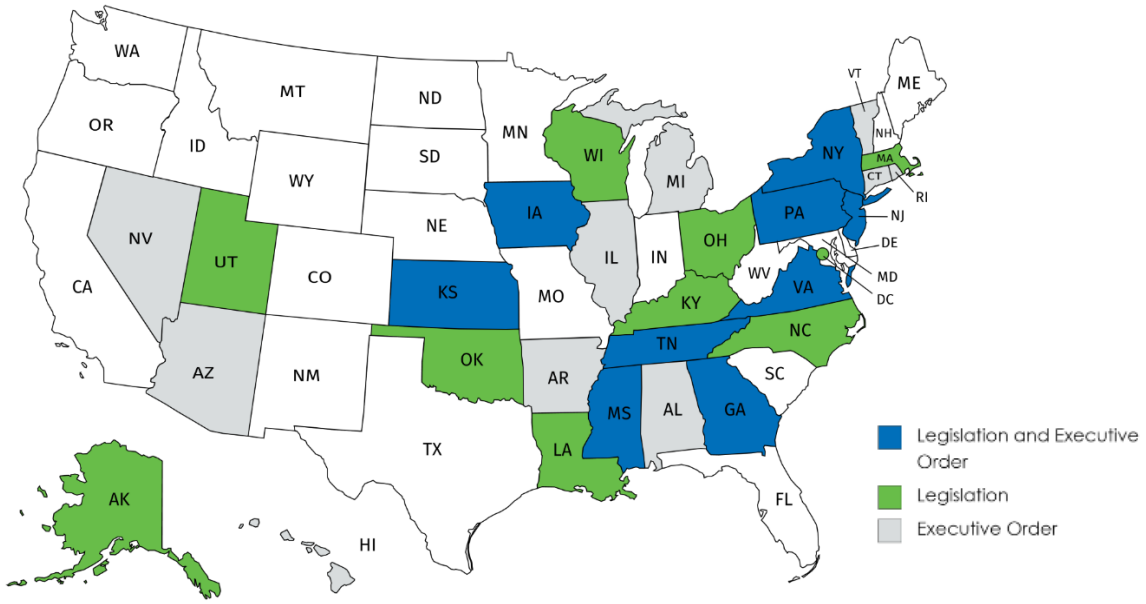
Health care facilities, doctors, nurses, and health care teams are on the front lines of an unimaginable public health crisis. Maryland's public health immunity statute lacks adequate liability protections for those fighting to save lives during COVID-19 and future public health emergencies. There is a fix for this problem.

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

Maryland's health care heroes have served in crisis mode for nearly a year. Hospital functions and care delivery, for COVID and non-COVID patients alike, have been severely impacted by the pandemic. State directives ordered the suspension of elective and non-urgent procedures; supply chains for protective gear and other critical resources were broken; staffing shortages abound, and the thousands of workers who persevere are stretched to their limits. Such unique challenges were not foreseen when the current law was enacted nearly 20 years ago.

WHAT OTHER STATES HAVE DONE

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, 28 states and Washington, DC passed laws and/or issued executive orders to grant liability protections for health care facilities and providers.



HOW THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE HEROES PROTECTION ACT HELPS

BILL PROVISION	VALUE
Ensure those serving Marylanders during a crisis are protected from undue lawsuits	Account for the all-hands-on-deck pandemic response by granting liability protections to health care facilities, including employees, agents, and contractors, and health care practitioners acting in good faith
Acknowledge the emergency's disruption to all aspects of care delivery	Protect providers complying with state or federal directives, including the state's mandate to halt elective and non-urgent procedures, which led to unfortunate delays in care for some Marylanders
Keep liability protections 180 days after public health emergency ends	Health care facilities and providers will continue treating COVID-19 patients after the pandemic, and disruptions to the workforce and supply chains will persist long after

HOW YOU CAN HELP

PASS THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE HEROES PROTECTION ACT

Maryland Hospital Association