



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 8, 2024

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Information - Senate Bill 1006 - Hospitals - Medical Debt Collection - Sale of Patient Debt

Dear Chair Beidle:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1006. Maryland hospitals have only one core mission: to provide the best patient care possible. Hospitals believe every person should receive the care they need without financial worry or hardship and care for every person who comes through their doors—regardless of ability to pay.

We appreciate the intent behind SB 1006 but ask the committee to consider whether some provisions of the bill create significant operational hurdles to implementation. For example, the bill does not:

- Indicate how the list of patients whose debt is being purchased will be compiled, nor does it state that the contractor will be responsible for contacting those patients
- Describe how either the hospital or the contractor would know whether a particular patient's debt is subject to an open appeal with an insurance company
- Identify how the contractor will confirm a patient's family income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty level or how to confirm that the patient has medical debt exceeding 5% of the individual's family income

For more information, please contact:
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