



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 59 - Safe Sleep for Infants - Awareness and Certification

Position: *Support as Amended in the Senate*

April 2, 2024

House Health & Government Operations Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 59. Maryland's 32 birthing hospitals deliver more than 67,000 babies each year and are committed to a safe delivery, hospital stay, and discharge home.

Maryland's hospitals support the goals of SB 59 and acknowledge the life-saving role that safe sleep practices have in preventing infant mortality. As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland hospitals provide safe sleep education before discharge.

MHA worked closely with the bill sponsor and stakeholders, including the Baltimore City Health Department, to develop consensus amendments for HB 177- SB 59 includes those amendments. The bill as amended ensures safe sleep education is provided before an infant is discharged from the hospital while allowing flexibility to choose the method for delivering the information and confirming receipt. As birthing hospitals adopt new technologies to improve patient experience, such as education via personal devices like tablets, permitting greater latitude allows for innovation and improved retention.

We appreciate the bill sponsors and the Baltimore City Health Department raising awareness of this important issue and look forward to continued partnership to promote safe sleep environments and reduce infant mortality.

For these reasons, we ask for a *favorable* report on SB 59 as amended in the Senate.

For more information, please contact:
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