

February 23, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone & members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

I am writing as the Vice Chair of the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC) board of directors and as a Luminis Health executive **in full support of SB0587** for \$1M annual funding for the MPSC, the state's designated patient safety center.

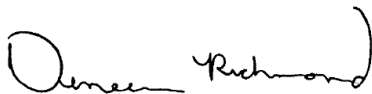
Medical errors and preventable harm in U.S. healthcare remains a major public health challenge, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and serious injury annually. Marylanders face similar concerns.

MPSC serves as the state's independent improvement arm for patient safety—supporting hospitals, clinicians, and partners to reduce preventable harm, improve maternal and patient outcomes, and advance health equity. Rather than depending on every health care organization to discover and reinvent solutions, MPSC drives and accelerates the standardization and adoption of best practices across the state. This work directly benefits all Marylanders, including those with Medicaid coverage and the state's most vulnerable populations. The return on this investment is clear: fewer preventable complications, lower costs to the Medicaid program, and better outcomes for all Marylanders.

The General Assembly previously recognized this as a public good and created dedicated state funding for this role. Restoring this \$1M investment preserves critical statewide infrastructure at an exceedingly small fraction of Maryland's total healthcare spend. Without this restoration, Maryland is at real risk of losing its patient safety center, which serves a purpose like a National Transportation Safety Board for healthcare.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to patient safety. **I urge you and your Senate colleagues to fully support SB0587, which includes \$1 million for patient safety in the annual state budget.**

Sincerely,



Deneen Richmond
Vice Chair, MPSC Board of Directors
President, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center
Chief, External Affairs & Population Health, Luminis Health