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**SB 587 – Maryland Patient Safety Center Fund – Funding
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 25, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair, Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of AARP Maryland and our 850,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 587, Funding for the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC). Thank you to Chair Guzzone for sponsoring this legislation.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, representing approximately 850,000 members across the state. AARP Maryland is dedicated to ensuring that older Marylanders have access to high-quality, equitable, and safe health care. The MPSC’s mission of “Keeping Maryland Health Care Safe” is essential to protecting patients across the state, especially adults age 50 and older.

Why the Maryland Patient Safety Center Matters

For more than 17 years, MPSC has been a vital partner to hospitals, physicians, long-term care providers, and patient advocates across the state. These partnerships have advanced innovative strategies to prevent avoidable harm and improve the quality of care for all Marylanders.

Recent MPSC-hosted conferences have brought together hundreds of health care professionals, fostering collaborative learning and strengthening Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model through improved safety and quality outcomes.

Continued investment ensures that MPSC can expand its safety programs, strengthen its collaboration with health policy agencies, and provide coaching and support to health care facilities statewide.

These activities are critical to reducing preventable harm, eliminating disparities, and ensuring better outcomes for older adults.

Why SB 587 Is Necessary

SB 587 requires the Governor to include a mandated \$1,000,000 appropriation to the MPSC Fund each fiscal year beginning in FY 2027. This dedicated, recurring support ensures that the Center can fully execute its core responsibilities, including:

- Developing, coordinating, and implementing patient safety initiatives statewide

- Serving as a model for patient safety innovation
- Convening health care providers, patients, and families to reduce avoidable harm
- Sharing best practices across Maryland's health care system

The bill ensures consistent funding, which is essential for sustaining statewide safety improvements.

Conclusion

AARP Maryland urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 587. The Maryland Patient Safety Center plays an irreplaceable role in safeguarding patients and advancing statewide health care quality. Ensuring stable, mandated funding is the responsible and necessary step to maintain and expand this essential work.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of Marylanders.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.