



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 882-
Consumer Health Information - Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the State's
Consumer Health Information Hub - Repeal**

Position: *Support*
February 17, 2026
House Health 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 House Bill 882. Health literacy is critical to our goal of a healthy Maryland. Maryland hospitals thoroughly review patient materials so they can be understood across education levels and populations. However, we appreciate the ability to continue to leverage the expertise of the State's Consumer Health Information Hub to further accessibility as needed.

The impact of low health literacy has been well documented. More than 80 million adults in the United States have low health literacy, which can adversely affect the quality of their health care. Limited health literacy is associated with increased hospitalizations, greater use of emergency care, and lower adherence to health improving regimens—all leading to poorer overall health and higher mortality rates.

We appreciate the bill's holistic view on different aspects of health literacy, including alignment of state and local government requirements. Mandatory patient notices and disclosures have increased considerably over the years, often with compulsory model language and provisions that can potentially compound the challenges generated by low health literacy. The benefits of the Consumer Health Information Hub, proposed under HB 882, will be magnified if it explores how to streamline patient-centered communications across state and federal requirements to improve understanding of patient rights and responsibilities.

Health literacy is essential for empowering patients to take control and manage their own health, thus contributing to the continued success of Maryland's Model. We thank the sponsor for introducing this important legislation to help Marylanders make informed health care decisions. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 882.

For more information, please contact:

Jake Whitaker, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
Jwhitaker@mhaonline.org