



Hospice & Palliative Care Network OF MARYLAND

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Benjamin F. Kramer

From: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 10, 2022

RE: **Letter of Information** – Senate Bill 824 – *Health – Accessibility of Electronic Advance Care Planning Documents*

On behalf of the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland (HPCNM), we submit this letter of information on Senate Bill 824. Among other provisions, Senate Bill 824 requires a health care facility, upon admittance, to use the state-designated health information exchange (CRISP) to identify if the individual has any electronic advance planning documents. The definition of a health care facility includes a hospice program.

While hospice programs have been in communication with CRISP, hospice programs are generally not connected to CRISP. Unlike hospitals and physicians that initially received financial incentives under the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), hospice programs did not. Therefore, a requirement that hospice programs check CRISP for electronic advance planning documents and then require them to offer to scan in a paper document would be unduly burdensome due to the financial requirements to obtain an electronic health network. Rather than this mandate, the HPCNM recommends that CRISP continue to work with hospice programs on connectivity, and the State should consider financial incentives to offset the costs.

For more information call:

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