

**Senate Bill 591 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Patient Safety Center Designation and Fund****Position: *Support***

February 16, 2022

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Kelley and Sponsor Augustine:

As the President of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center and Board Member of Maryland Patient Safety Center, Inc. (“MPSC”), I write to express my support for Senate Bill 591. Both in Maryland and nationally, our health care system faces challenges<sup>1</sup> that warrant bold public investment like Senate Bill 591’s investment in a Maryland-designated patient safety organization. While these system-wide challenges are complex, well-funded, well-respected patient safety organizations are poised to be a part of the solution.

Passage of Senate Bill 591 will secure financial stability for the patient safety center designated as such by the Maryland Health Care Commission since 2004. Moreover, it will allow MPSC to grow our important work in the public interest. While I am available upon your request to expound on any aspects of the MPSC’s activity, I take this opportunity to share a few of the MPSC’s initiatives that would benefit from Senate Bill 591 codification:

**Caring for the Caregiver**: This program provides peer support for Maryland’s health care workforce on a confidential and timely basis.

**Equitable Health Initiatives**: Our work includes the Maternal Health Equity Project which educates Maryland health care providers of the significant disparity in outcomes for Maryland’s pregnant black women; disparities that can be remedied through access to non-obstetric services.

**Sepsis Care**: MPSC strives to increase sepsis survival rates through programs seeking early identification and rapid initiation of high quality treatment.

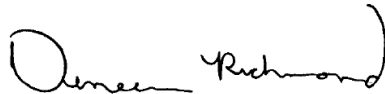
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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Internet Citation: Chartbook on Patient Safety. Content last reviewed February 2021. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD; available at: <https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/chartbooks/patientsafety/index.html>; and <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/patient-safety-outcomes/10-top-patient-safety-issues-for-2021.html>.

Of course, this important work is only possible with financial backing. While MPSC has some revenue generating consultation services and products, it has relied on Health Services Cost Review Commission seed funding and temporary grants to survive financially. Replacing this uncertain funding mechanism with legislative appropriations will allow the MPSC to play a leading role in the pursuit for long-term patient safety for all Marylanders for generations to come.

I thank you for this opportunity to express my support for Senate Bill 591 and the important work of Maryland's own patient safety organization—the Maryland Patient Safety Center.

Sincerely,



Deneen Richmond  
President  
Luminis Health  
Doctors Community Medical Center