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SB 591 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Patient Safety Center – Designation and Fund

Position: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of Senate Bill 591. This bill allocates state funding to the Maryland Health Care Commission’s (MHCC) designated state patient safety center (“Center”), currently the Maryland Patient Safety Center, Inc. (MPSC), beginning in 2025. The Center shall:

- (1) develop, coordinate, and implement patient safety initiatives across the state;
- (2) be a model for patient safety innovation and implementation in the state;
- (3) convene health care providers, patients, and families to:
 - (i) improve the quality of health care and reduce preventable and avoidable harm;
- and
 - (ii) provide safe and equitable health care for state citizens; and
- (4) share information relating to best practices among providers and patients in the state.

As part of its mission, CareFirst is committed to driving transformation of the health care experience with and for our members and communities. We strongly support the work being undertaken by MPSC to prevent avoidable harm and to provide safe and equitable health care for all. MPSC’s programs focused on opioid-related care for vulnerable infants and treatment for pregnant mothers as well as decreasing the prevalence of unnecessary cesarean sections by supporting Maryland’s birthing hospitals align with the shared goals of both the Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy (SIHIS) and CareFirst to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations.

SB 591 will enhance the critical work being done by the Center to improve patient safety and health outcomes for Marylanders.

We urge a favorable report.

About CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

In its 84th year of service, CareFirst, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit healthcare company which, through its affiliates and subsidiaries, offers a comprehensive portfolio of health insurance products and administrative services to 3.4 million individuals and employers in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia. In 2019, CareFirst invested \$43 million to improve overall health, and increase the accessibility, affordability, safety, and quality of healthcare throughout its market areas. To learn more about CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, visit our website at www.carefirst.com and our transforming healthcare page at www.carefirst.com/transformation, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).