



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 22, 2022

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 984 - Public Health - State Designated Exchange - Health Data Utility

Dear Chair Kelley:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 984. Since the statewide health information exchange (HIE) was established, health systems have used health data to improve outcomes. CRISP, the state-designated health information exchange partners with hospitals and other health care stakeholders to share health information to improve the health and wellness of our patients.

Over the last several years, through the transition to the Total Cost of Care Model, the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the request of the General Assembly through legislative mandates, CRISP grew to serve as a connector between the traditional health care industry and public health. CRISP data is also used to inform policy around health equity, as required by the Health Equity Resource Communities Act of 2021. Establishing the state-designated HIE as a health data utility formalizes the role the HIE is already moving into and establishes a framework to use public health, utilization, and administrative health data.

The ability to collect, analyze and synthesize available health and public health data is critical to public health interventions and informed policy making. As the state continues to work toward the population health goals under the Total Cost of Care Model, seeks to improve health equity, and eliminate health disparities, access to data is crucial in making decisions to support these goals.

MHA understand several stakeholders requested amendments to clarify data use and consumer protection provisions. We look forward to working with these stakeholders as the legislation moves through the legislative process.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on SB 984.

For more information, please contact:
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