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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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TESTIMONY FOR THE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR SHANE PENDERGRASS
VICE CHAIR JOSELYN PENA-MELNYK

HOUSE BILL 915 – MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION – PATIENT SAFETY CENTER – DESIGNATION AND FUNDING

March 9, 2022

Good afternoon Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk. Today I am asking for your support for HB 915 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Patient Safety Center – Designation and Funding. This bill is necessary to guarantee the health and safety of Maryland’s patients going forward. To do this, this bill would require the MHCC designate a Patient Safety Center for the state, a position that the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC) has held since 2004, and provide \$1,000,000 in annual funding for the organization, allowing the MSPC to invest more in our current patient population, and prepare for future endeavors with a more clear fiscal outlook.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center was founded by the Maryland Legislature in 2003, and the Maryland Healthcare Commission designated it as the state patient safety center in 2004. Since then, the MSPC has become a recognized national leader in patient safety, and has led many initiatives that have greatly improved the lives of Maryland patients. These include the reduction of caesarian sections and a reduction in lengths of stay for infants and mothers. Additionally, they worked with hospital and nursing home staff to increase sanitation at the outset of the pandemic, and conducted numerous trainings over the years to ensure our providers are giving the best care possible.

The MSPC can boast this excellent record of service on a steadily decreasing budget, as they are currently still funded through their initial seed money. That funding has expired, so it falls on us to secure funds for patient safety going forward, so that the MSPC may continue their critical work.

For this reason, I am asking for your support for HB 915. Thank you for your time.