



Maryland
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 591- Maryland Health Care Commission - Patient Safety Center - Designation
and Fund**

Position: *Support*

March 31, 2022

House Health & Government Operations Committee

MHA Position

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 591.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC), which formed in 2004, engages in statewide collaboratives and initiatives to prevent avoidable harm and provide safe and equitable healthcare for all. This important work aligns with the goals of the Total Cost of Care Model and Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy.

As we enter the fourth year of the Total Cost of Care Model, stakeholders are coming together in new ways to improve care for Marylanders, with a focus on health equity and cross-continuum collaboration. Permanent funding to support the state-designated center will ensure a sustained focus to improve the health care experience and outcomes of Marylanders.

MPSC offered relevant, well-received programs for all sectors of health care to improve the quality and safety of patient care. Their timely response to support hospitals, nursing homes, and others during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the important role they play. For example, the Clean Collaborative, a partnership with Maryland's nursing homes, improves infection control and rigorous environmental cleaning to prevent transmission of infectious diseases, such as *Clostridium difficile*, Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA), and COVID-19. All these infections can result in unnecessary visits to the emergency department and other, more serious, outcomes. Preliminary results show a decline in these infections at the facilities and improvement in overall cleanliness.

Most recently MPSC engaged renowned experts on the Maternal Health Equity Project, a new initiative to educate non-obstetric providers, such as emergency department physicians, on racial bias, maternal morbidity and the importance of the patient's voice and experience. To continue to support innovative work by the designated patient safety center, permanent funding and support from the legislature is essential. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB 591.

For more information, please contact:

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