



March 31, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, Taylor House Office Building Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

On behalf of LifeSpan Network, we strongly support Senate Bill 591 and the continuation of Maryland's Patient Safety Center (MPSC). The MPSC has been in existence since 2004 when it was so designated by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). MPSC is not only recognized as a Patient Safety Organization by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, but it is recognized as a national leader in patient safety. Therefore, the provisions contained in Senate Bill 591 simply codify and clarify the current designation by MHCC.

The continuation of the MPSC will assist in ensuring that health care facilities have the necessary tools to maximize patient safety efforts, which both reduces costs to the system and increases quality of care to residents. As a Board member, I am proud of the work that the MPSC has put forward in working with all stakeholders to advance its mission to improve quality and outcomes across all health care settings. Specifically, for the nursing home industry, the MPSC has worked through the Center's Clean Collaboratives to reduce facility-acquired infections in both nursing homes and hospitals. The MPSC has also worked collaboratively with nursing homes to reduce injuries related to falls.

For these reasons, LifeSpan urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Heffner", followed by a horizontal line.

Kevin Heffner
President & CEO
LifeSpan Network

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Malcolm Augustine