



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 9, 2023

To: The Honorable Benjamin Barnes, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 675 - Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland

Dear Chair Barnes:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 675.

The Trauma Fund was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2003 and funded through a \$5 surcharge on all Maryland vehicle registrations. Since the fund was established 20 years ago, eligibility for payment from the fund expanded. Yet, revenue to the fund never increased.

At the same time, the nature of trauma care has changed, the types of care needs have become more complex, and care teams are now multidisciplinary. Tremendous resources are needed to keep physicians and other members of the team on call and ready.

Not every hospital can manage all forms of traumatic injury and may not have the sub-specialty medical providers for critical care at all times. A hospital's commitment to being a trauma center requires significant investment and resource allocation. The role of trauma care, and trauma centers, in Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model has never been well defined or explored.

A traumatic event in a person's life is by nature, unscheduled and often times life altering. The type of care they need can be specialized, costly, and unexpected. Given changes in trauma needs, trauma care, and the health care system, MHA supports a Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on HB 675.

For more information, please contact:
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