

House Bill 519 – Public Health – Hospitals – Parking for Patients

Position: Oppose

February 12, 2025

House Health and Government Operations Committee

The University of Maryland Medical System respectfully submits this letter of opposition to House Bill 519 – Public Health – Hospitals – Parking for Patients. House Bill 519 (“HB 519”) would require each hospital in the State to provide free parking to each inpatient for the duration of their inpatient stay, and each outpatient for the duration of their appointment.

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) provides primary, urgent, emergency and specialty care at 12 hospitals across the state. The UMMS network includes academic, community and specialty hospitals that together provide 25% of all hospital-based care in Maryland. Our acute care and specialty hospitals are located in 13 counties and Baltimore City, and serve urban, suburban and rural communities.

Parking varies significantly across the hospital system. In several of the suburban and rural hospitals, where the cost of land is substantially lower, parking is available free-of-charge to any visitor, including patients receiving inpatient or outpatient care. In more densely populated areas, such as the campus of the University of Maryland Medical Center in downtown Baltimore, parking is extremely limited and existing parking structures must accommodate thousands of students and faculty in addition to staff, patients and visitors. Finally, in multiple locations, including UM Capital Region Health in Largo, parking is owned and operated by the county or municipal government rather than the hospital.

UMMS estimates that the fiscal impact of the bill would be at least \$4 million in annual revenue loss across the system. This revenue is used to pay any mortgage or lease associated with the parking garage, as well as maintain, repair, and staff each parking garage. There would also be a significant, but indeterminate cost to operationalize a system to allow for free parking (e.g., technology upgrades to integrate with our patient records system, staffing costs for parking management and validation, renegotiation of contracts with third-party parking vendors that manage the facilities, developing and installing signs, etc.).

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM

University of Maryland Medical Center • University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus •
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute • University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center •
University of Maryland Shore Regional Health – University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton –
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown – University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester –
University of Maryland Shore Emergency Center at Queenstown •
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center • University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center •
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health System – University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center –
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital •
University of Maryland Capital Region Health – University of Maryland Bowie Health Center –
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital

For these reasons, the University of Maryland Medical System opposes HB 519 and respectfully requests an ***unfavorable*** report on the bill.

For more information, please contact:

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