

TO: The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings

SB681
Favorable

FROM: Brandon Floyd
Associate Director, *Maryland Government Affairs*

DATE: February 18, 2025

RE: SB681 Health Care Malpractice Claims - Health Care Provider - Definition

Johns Hopkins supports **SB681 Health Care Malpractice Claims - Health Care Provider - Definition**. This bill expands the scope of a health care provider by including employees, agents, or contractors of a hospital who are licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized to render health care services in Maryland.

Johns Hopkins Medicine, a leading healthcare institution employing over 50,000 full-time professionals and providing care for more than 95,000 patient admissions annually, is dedicated to protecting our patients and staff. The current Maryland Health Care Malpractice Claims statute restricts its coverage to a narrowly defined list of healthcare providers, therefore creating limitations on liability protections that can be provided. Many dedicated clinical professionals, who play an essential role in patient outcomes, would be excluded from the statutory protections—exposing them to personal liability.

Clinicians such as x-ray, cardiac, radiology, and anesthesia technicians, along with respiratory and radiation therapists and other non-listed clinicians, are not encompassed by the current statute. These healthcare providers are integral to the clinical teams that deliver quality care to patients. Excluding these providers from malpractice protections arguably undermines their individual contributions. Hopkins' leadership acknowledges that the provision of high-quality care is a collaborative effort, heavily reliant on the expertise of each member of a clinical team. Each professional, regardless of their specific role, contributes uniquely to patient safety and care quality. It is therefore paramount that these clinicians receive the same legal safeguards afforded to other healthcare providers under the Statute.

We strongly advocate for an expansion of the healthcare provider definition to include all hospital healthcare providers who administer medical care. By broadening the definition of a healthcare provider, we can ensure that our healthcare providers are adequately protected.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB681**.