



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 587- Maryland Patient Safety Center Fund - Funding

Position: *Support*

March 31, 2026

House Appropriations Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 587.

The Mid-Atlantic Patient Safety Center (MPSC), formerly the Maryland Patient Safety Center, which formed in the early 2000s, was one of the first 25 organizations in the country to be recognized as a Patient Safety Organization by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.¹ MPSC engages in statewide collaboratives and initiatives to prevent avoidable harm and provide safe and equitable health care for all.

Despite having a staff of less than five people, MPSC has a broad, statewide impact. In 2025, MPSC offered more than 75 educational programs across the country, trained more than 4,000 health care workers and held two conferences on medical safety and patient safety attended by more than 350 and 600 people, respectively.²

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they engaged in the Clean Collaborative, a partnership with Maryland's nursing homes, to improve infection control through rigorous environmental cleaning to prevent transmission of infectious diseases, such as Clostridium difficile (C. 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. Participating facilities decreased C. difficile rates by 14.2%, compared to a 5.9% decrease among non-participating facilities.³

MPSC set out to improve outcomes for neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) by working with birthing hospitals to put in place best practices for care of infants with NAS. Through this work, MPSC helped reduce length of stay by 1.5 days and achieved a 50% decrease in the rate of interhospital transfers. The results of their work have been published in the American Journal of Perinatology.⁴

¹ [About MPSC | Healthcare Quality Improvement](#)

² [MPSC | Mid-Atlantic Patient Safety Center](#)

³ [Maryland Patient Safety Center Clean Collaborative](#)

⁴ [Improving Outcomes through a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Collaborative in Maryland - PubMed](#)

MPSC has also supported hospitals' efforts to improve maternal morbidity. MPSC engaged renowned experts on the Maternal Health Equity Project, an 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.

MPSC also led the launch of a public awareness campaign, *Care Flows Both Ways*, in 2025 to educate the public on the impact of workplace violence on the health care workforce. The campaign, created through a work group established by state legislation, features real Maryland hospital workers sharing their stories.⁵

State funding ensures access and accountability as Maryland continues to serve as a national leader and trailblazer. Requiring rather than authorizing funding will help guarantee MPSC can continue to do important things like the aforementioned projects and continue to serve as a convener for health care facilities across the state.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 587.

For more information, please contact:

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⁵ [SB700_wpv_final_rpt.pdf](#)