

XSB 587- Maryland Patient Safety Center Fund - Fun

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Position: FAV



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:

Jane Krienke, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

⁵ [SB700_wpv_final_rpt.pdf](#)

SB 587 Maryland Patient Safety Center FAV AARP MD

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

Position: FAV



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**SB 587 – Maryland Patient Safety Center Fund – Funding
House Appropriations Committee
March 31, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of AARP Maryland and our 850,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 587, Funding for the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC). Thank you to Chair Guzzone for sponsoring this legislation.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, representing approximately 850,000 members across the state. AARP Maryland is dedicated to ensuring that older Marylanders have access to high-quality, equitable, and safe health care. The MPSC’s mission of “Keeping Maryland Health Care Safe” is essential to protecting patients across the state, especially adults age 50 and older.

Why the Maryland Patient Safety Center Matters

For more than 17 years, MPSC has been a vital partner to hospitals, physicians, long-term care providers, and patient advocates across the state. These partnerships have advanced innovative strategies to prevent avoidable harm and improve the quality of care for all Marylanders.

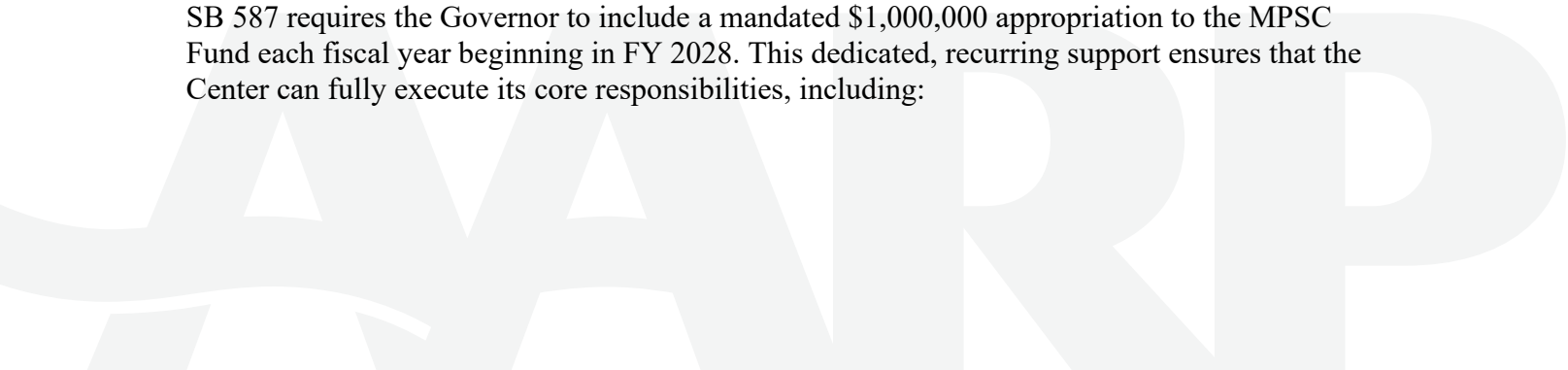
Recent MPSC-hosted conferences have brought together hundreds of health care professionals, fostering collaborative learning and strengthening Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model through improved safety and quality outcomes.

Continued investment ensures that MPSC can expand its safety programs, strengthen its collaboration with health policy agencies, and provide coaching and support to health care facilities statewide.

These activities are critical to reducing preventable harm, eliminating disparities, and ensuring better outcomes for older adults.

Why SB 587 Is Necessary

SB 587 requires the Governor to include a mandated \$1,000,000 appropriation to the MPSC Fund each fiscal year beginning in FY 2028. This dedicated, recurring support ensures that the Center can fully execute its core responsibilities, including:



- Developing, coordinating, and implementing patient safety initiatives statewide
- Serving as a model for patient safety innovation
- Convening health care providers, patients, and families to reduce avoidable harm
- Sharing best practices across Maryland's health care system

The bill ensures consistent funding, which is essential for sustaining statewide safety improvements.

Conclusion

AARP Maryland urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 587. The Maryland Patient Safety Center plays an irreplaceable role in safeguarding patients and advancing statewide health care quality. Ensuring stable, mandated funding is the responsible and necessary step to maintain and expand this essential work.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of Marylanders.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

Maryland Patient Safety Center briefing and letter

Uploaded by: Stephanie Peditto

Position: FAV



Restore \$1M Funding to the State’s Designated Patient Safety Center

A State Responsibility & Designation

In statute, the State of Maryland, through the Maryland Health Care Commission, designates a Patient Safety Center to lead systemwide improvement in healthcare safety. That designated center is the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC). With this designation comes a public responsibility—and a clear rationale for sustained state investment. Although MPSC is an independent nonprofit, it is the state’s official convener for learning, improvement, and harm prevention across Maryland healthcare.

Safe care does not happen by accident: we help prevent harm before it happens. From reducing preventable infections to improving care during childbirth, our work helps prevent avoidable harm. It’s hard to measure what doesn’t happen—but the saving in lives, health and cost are real.

Why the State Must Fund This Work

Hospitals play a critical role in improving care, but statewide safety infrastructure exists to serve the public good. Relying solely on hospitals to fund a statewide safety center is akin to expecting airlines alone to fund the FAA or NTSB. Patient safety is a shared public interest: Marylanders expect safe care regardless of geography or care setting, and ensuring that consistency is a state-level obligation.

When safety infrastructure is funded only by hospitals, smaller or rural institutions—and non-hospital settings such as urgent care, assisted living, and nursing homes—risk being left behind. State funding ensures equity, access, and accountability. Moreover, the benefits of improved safety—reduced Medicaid spending, better outcomes, and workforce retention—accrue to the state as a whole, not just individual hospitals.

How the State Gets Value from Its Investment

- ✓ **Return on Investment:** MPSC reduces avoidable harm, lowering Medicaid and system-wide costs by decreasing complications, hospitalizations, lengths of stay, readmissions, emergency department use, and post-acute care. These savings extend across Medicaid, state employee health plans, and uncompensated care.
- ✓ **Trust and Confidence in Maryland Healthcare:** MPSC strengthens public trust through prevention, reinforcing the infrastructure that supports safe, high-quality care statewide—before crises occur.
- ✓ **Equity and Statewide Reach:** MPSC serves all Maryland hospitals, ensuring consistent safety standards across large systems and smaller, rural institutions alike.

A Proven Model: Like the NTSB, But for Healthcare

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigates accidents to improve transportation systems through protected, non-punitive learning.

MPSC serves a comparable role in healthcare. As a federally listed Patient Safety Organization, MPSC provides legally protected environments for healthcare organizations to learn from adverse events and near misses—improving systems without blame or litigation. This trusted convening function is essential state infrastructure.

NTSB’s recommendations prevent future accidents, saving lives and taxpayer dollars. MPSC’s programs (on falls, maternal morbidity, medication safety, etc.) reduce costly preventable harm—generating **return on investment** across Medicaid, state employee health plans, and uncompensated care.

State funding for MPSC yields cost savings far greater than the appropriation. Just like NTSB reports, MPSC findings translate to **systemic efficiencies** and long-term public benefit.

Our Ask

Restore and sustain **\$1 million in annual state funding** for the nonprofit Maryland Patient Safety Center, the state’s designated patient safety center. This investment ensures equitable access to safety infrastructure, protects healthcare workers, reduces Medicaid and state employee health plan costs, and keeps Marylanders safe—demonstrating a proactive, bipartisan commitment to public well-being.



Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

As leaders of quality and patient safety across Maryland’s health systems, we urge you to restore **\$1 million in the FY27 state budget for the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC).**

Every day, hospitals work tirelessly to prevent harm, but some risks cannot be solved by any one institution. Recently, portable oxygen tanks were depleting during patient transport—a deadly situation. Because of MPSC, that lesson was rapidly shared statewide, and hospitals collectively identified and shared improvements, and engaged manufacturers to address the problem. Without this infrastructure, the same failure could have harmed patients again and again in different Maryland hospitals.

MPSC functions like an “NTSB” for healthcare. Just as the federal government funds the NTSB to identify patterns across airlines and railroads, Maryland needs MPSC to detect and prevent repeat events across hospitals, nursing homes, and urgent care centers. This work saves lives and avoids costs—each prevented adverse event (such as an infection, readmission, or surgical complication) can save \$20,000–\$50,000 or more. Preventing even a handful of these incidents annually offsets the entire state investment.

Maryland already funds prevention in other areas of public life—fire safety, car theft, highway patrol—because the public deserves protection from predictable harms. Patient safety is no different. It is a shared public good that requires a modest, reliable state investment to ensure every Marylander benefits, no matter where they receive care.

For the State, patient safety is not only a moral obligation but a fiscal imperative. Preventable harm drives higher Medicaid costs, increases state employee health plan expenditures, and reduces workforce productivity. By preventing adverse events, MPSC reduces avoidable state spending and strengthens Maryland’s healthcare system for all.

The requested \$1 million is small compared to the cost of preventable harm, but its impact is profound: fewer tragedies, faster learning, and measurable taxpayer savings. It is both the right thing to do for Maryland families and the smart thing to do for Maryland’s budget.

We respectfully urge your support for restoring and maintaining this critical funding in FY27.

Sincerely,

Terry Fairbanks, MD, MS
MedStar Health
Senior Vice President and Chief Quality and Safety Officer
Executive Director, MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety
Professor, Georgetown University

Deneen Richmond
Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center
President
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Allen Kachalia, MD, JD
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Michael Anne Preas MS, RN, CPHQ, CPPS, CIC, FAPIC
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January 12, 2026

Maryland General Assembly
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for Maryland Patient Safety Center Budget Request

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

On behalf of AARP Maryland and its 850,000 members, I am writing to express strong support for the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC). MPSC's mission is to improve patient safety across all aspects of healthcare in Maryland and the surrounding region. Its mission—*Keeping Maryland Healthcare Safe*—is critical to ensuring high-quality, equitable care for all Marylanders, and particularly those age 50 and older.

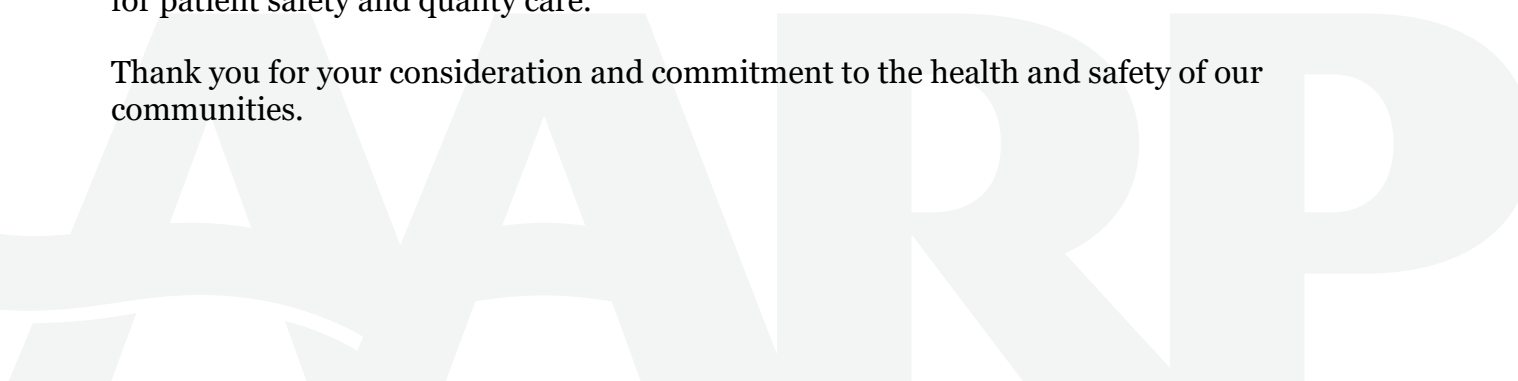
For over seventeen years, MPSC has partnered with hospitals, physicians, long-term care providers, and patients to implement innovative strategies that prevent avoidable harm. Through statewide initiatives such as education, training, and fostering a culture of safety, MPSC has driven measurable improvements in patient outcomes.

Recent conferences hosted by MPSC have engaged hundreds of healthcare professionals, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the continuum of care. These programs are essential to Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model, which depends on continuous improvement in safety and quality to achieve better outcomes and reduce costs.

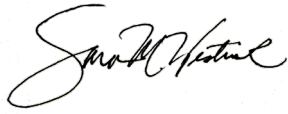
MPSC's work is not only vital for patient safety but also for maintaining Maryland's leadership in healthcare innovation. Continued investment will allow MPSC to expand its reach, strengthen partnerships with key health policy agencies, and provide coaching to healthcare facilities statewide.

I urge you to continue to support the Maryland Patient Safety Center with the resources required to do its essential work. Doing so will ensure that Maryland remains a model for patient safety and quality care.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the health and safety of our communities.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara M. Westrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" being the most prominent.

Sara M. Westrick
Advocacy Director
AARP Maryland

cc: Hank Greenberg, State Director, AARP Maryland