



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 426 - Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person -
Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings**

Position: *Support*

March 26, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings 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 House Bill 426.

MHA fully supports all efforts to improve health care and patients' hospital experience. HB 426 would benefit patient care and hospital throughput by restricting civil actions taken against the assets of patients with disabilities who have filed for a guardian of property.

Often patients are admitted to hospitals without family or representatives to speak on their behalf. In some instances, these patients with disabilities are incapacitated and unable to account for their finances. HB 426 places a stay on civil actions once the patient files for a petition for guardianship of their property. This legislation protects vulnerable patients from incurring additional financial hardship while they are unable to contest the charges.

In many cases, patients cannot be transported to post-acute settings because of financial barriers. Lack of access to bank accounts and existing funds can delay or prevent them from receiving the next level of care. HB 426 would delay any actions against a patient's personal property until a guardian is appointed, thereby giving patients a greater opportunity to retain assets while the guardianship petition works its way through the judicial system—a process that often can take months.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 426.

For more information, please contact:

Natasha Mehu, Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy

Nmehu@mhaonline.org