

# Maryland General Assembly Sine Die Report

## Progress on MHA's 2023 Legislative Priorities



### Strengthen Maryland's Hospital Workforce

MHA and the hospital field successfully advocated for significant reforms for this top priority, guided by recommendations from [MHA's Workforce Task Force](#).

- Transferred **oversight of Maryland Board of Nursing** to the Secretary of Health to improve operations and streamline licensure timeline
- **Passed MHA bill** to align state law for **physician credentialing** with new national accreditation timeline
- Created a **pathway for internationally educated nurses** to receive an initial license by removing social security number as a requirement for licensure
- Secured **\$4.4 million in funding for loan assistance** for physicians, physician assistants, and nurses
- Enabled nurse graduates **2 attempts to pass national licensure exam** while maintaining nurse graduate status



### Ensure Access to Care

- **Passed MHA bill** to extend reimbursement parity and allow audio-only telehealth for two years while under evaluation
- **Funded 9-8-8 Trust Fund** and crisis system through fiscal year 2025
- Helped **establish a Medicaid pilot** for individuals with severe mental illness to avoid hospital utilization
- Partnered to **expand access to health insurance** affordability and coverage to:
  - Continue premium subsidies for young adults
  - Establish express lane enrollment in Medicaid
  - Require state agencies to explore health and dental care coverage options for undocumented immigrants



### Improve Maryland's Medical Liability Environment

- **Defeated** legislation that would have allowed a home birth after cesarean to be performed by direct entry midwives
- **Defeated** trial attorney-backed bills that would have:
  - ✗ Removed the cap on noneconomic damages for personal injury and wrongful death cases
  - ✗ Circumvented discovery process by including audit trails as part of medical records
  - ✗ Expanded the authority of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

### ADDITIONAL MHA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Protected** one-time \$50 million reduction of the Medicaid Deficit Assessment
- **Secured** nearly \$9.9 million for **MHA's capital bond program** for 9 projects. Received commitment to increase funding in future years.
- **Defeated** effort to expand Maryland's False Health Claims Act
- **Amended** legislation mandating operating room space and staff for pediatric dental procedures and instead required state agencies to conduct a regional needs assessment
- **Helped** create exceptions to insurer step therapy protocols and improve patient access to needed prescription medication
- **Advanced** legislation to reduce youth suicide by enhancing safe gun storage requirements
- **Advocated** for inclusion of hospitals as sensitive locations where firearms are not permitted
- **Established** statewide tracking system for sexual assault evidence kits and reformed evidence preservation