

# TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

*in Maryland*



Maryland's hospitals are committed to meeting the needs of the communities they serve, delivering care not just within but well outside their four walls. Our commitment goes far beyond just the treatment of illness and injuries, extending to initiatives that keep people well so they can reach their highest potential for health.

Maryland's unique system gives our state a real opportunity to make care more responsive to patients' preferences, more tailored to communities' needs, more convenient for individuals, and more affordable overall. These goals support the mission of all hospitals to provide healing, help, and hope. Maryland's hospitals are committed to:

-  Delivering **high quality care**
-  **Empowering patients, families, and care partners**
-  **Coordinating care among different providers**

-  Improving **population health**
-  Focusing on **whole-person care** by tending to not only physical and behavioral health needs, but also social factors that influence health

BY SUPPORTING MARYLAND'S HOSPITALS IN THIS WORK, MARYLAND'S LEADERS CAN HAVE A DIRECT HAND IN HELPING MARYLANDERS LIVE HEALTHIER, MORE FRUITFUL LIVES.

*We urge*  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND  
 THE ADMINISTRATION TO:**



**EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE**

- Preserve **broad-based access to health care** by implementing sustainable solutions to secure the viability of the Maryland Medicaid Program and commercial insurance marketplace, affordability of insurance, and availability of community-based care
- Protect and grow programs that impact vulnerable populations by reducing financial barriers for patients, moderating drug prices, **expanding the use of telehealth**, and encouraging insurers to invest in care management under the reinsurance program
- Support efforts to achieve health equity by **addressing social determinants of health**, such as unstable housing or food insecurity
- Mitigate our behavioral health crisis by **investing in community-based and crisis services**, enforcing parity laws, and fully funding Maryland's two Institutions for Mental Diseases

**ENHANCE QUALITY AND PATIENT ENGAGEMENT**

- Encourage fairness in value-based payment policies by focusing on **measures that matter** – those proven to improve outcomes of care and health overall
- Improve the **patient and caregiver experience** by fostering policies and regulations that are responsive to local needs and resources
- Encourage the provision of **accurate and objective information** to inform people's health care choices
- Enable the **sharing of essential health information** among care providers by synchronizing state and federal requirements



**SUPPORT EFFICIENT CARE DELIVERY**

- Maintain a **predictable and sustainable rate setting system** through policies and funding updates that allow hospitals to invest in innovative programs, partnerships, and technologies
- Prevent unsustainable increases in health care costs and threats to essential services by improving Maryland's **medical liability climate**
- Protect hospitals' charitable mission by preventing measures that jeopardize their nonprofit, **tax exempt status** or undermine community benefits investments
- Assist hospitals in modernization efforts to better meet community health care needs by updating **certificate of need** and capital funding policies

**ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF MARYLAND'S UNIQUE MODEL**

- Secure promised reductions to the **Medicaid hospital assessment** and block new hospital assessments that increase the cost of care
- **Uphold the state's commitment** to offset costs associated with the Maryland Primary Care Program
- Empower health care providers to **share accountability** for achieving the model's goals via participation in alternative payment models
- Promote value-based care by **removing regulatory barriers** and preserving patient protections in the Maryland Patient Referral Law



**FOSTER A ROBUST AND INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE**

- Grow a diverse health care workforce by **establishing incentives and training programs** that target high need areas
- Fill critical shortages by **expanding scope of practice laws**, allowing non-physicians to practice at the top of their licenses
- **Support health care professionals** impacted by workplace violence by standardizing reporting procedures across jurisdictions
- Alleviate a strained workforce by enhancing funding for community-based behavioral health services and providing appropriate **reimbursement for peer recovery counselors** and other non-clinical workers

**Our Government Affairs Team:**

**Nicole Stallings**  
 Senior Vice President  
 nstallings@mhaonline.org  
 Cell: 443-285-9530

**Brian Frazee**  
 Vice President  
 bfrazee@mhaonline.org  
 Cell: 443-867-2001

**Jennifer Witten**  
 Vice President  
 jwitten@mhaonline.org  
 Cell: 505-688-3495

**Neal Karkhanis**  
 Director  
 nkarkhanis@mhaonline.org  
 Cell: 410-340-1257

**Jane Krienke**  
 Legislative Aide  
 jkrienke@mhaonline.org  
 Cell: 636-443-5177



Maryland Hospital Association

*Advancing health care and the health of all Marylanders*