

# CARING FOR MARYLAND 2020



Maryland Hospital Association

50 YEARS ADVANCING HEALTH CARE

## **Maryland's hospitals deliver healing, help and hope.**

More than 100,000 hospital caregivers, front-line staff and leaders work tirelessly each and every day not just to treat injuries and illnesses with **care and compassion** but also to keep all people in their communities healthy. Through innovative efforts like targeted wellness programs and thoughtful investments in improvement projects and workforce development, hospitals are dedicated to **advancing the health of all Marylanders.**

As hospitals and health systems uplift the health of all Marylanders, they play a critical role in the **economic and social fabric** of the cities, suburbs and rural areas they serve. Over its 50-year history, the Maryland Hospital Association has partnered with state leaders to enact policies meant to enable hospitals to provide **leading-edge, high-quality service** and uphold their long-standing missions of care.

**MARYLAND'S HOSPITALS INVITE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ADMINISTRATION  
TO BE OUR PARTNERS IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.**

# We urge THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO:



## ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE

- Preserve broad-based access to health care by ensuring **consumer protections** stay intact regardless of federal actions
- Ease our behavioral health crisis by **removing restrictions to access** for appropriate levels of care and fully funding Maryland's two Institutions for Mental Diseases
- Preserve programs that **lower financial barriers for patients** by addressing drug prices, safeguarding programs for vulnerable patients, and expanding the use of telehealth
- Ensure **accurate, objective consumer cost information** is available to inform health care choices while rejecting efforts that impede success of the Maryland Model

## ENHANCE HEALTH, 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
- Enable the **sharing of essential health information** among care providers by synchronizing state and federal requirements
- Promote health equity by **investing in social determinants of health**, such as housing stability, food security, and better transportation
- Facilitate **partnerships at state and local levels** to address risk factors contributing to diabetes and other chronic health conditions





## SUPPORT EFFICIENT CARE DELIVERY

- Enact **medical liability reform** and protect access to essential services by raising evidentiary standards, ensuring patients are compensated fairly and allowing courts to limit attorneys' contingency fees
- Ensure a **predictable and sustainable payment system** through policies and funding updates that allow hospitals to invest in innovative programs, partnerships and technologies
- Protect **hospitals' charitable missions** by preventing efforts that jeopardize their nonprofit, tax exempt status or undermine community benefits investments
- **Lower regulatory barriers** to delivery system reform, without reducing patient and community access to needed services

## ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF MARYLAND'S UNIQUE MODEL

- Secure promised reductions to the **Medicaid Deficit Assessment** and block new hospital assessments that increase the cost of care
- **Uphold the state's commitment** to offset costs of the Maryland Primary Care Program and to measure outcomes for primary care investments
- Empower health care providers to **share accountability** for achieving the model's goals via participation in alternative payment methods
- 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

- Fill critical provider shortages in high need areas: streamline and fully fund the **state loan repayment** program
- Empower our health care workforce by **expanding scope of practice** for non-physician providers, improving team-based care
- **Support health care professionals** impacted by workplace violence by raising penalties and strengthening collaboration with law enforcement
- Build the ranks of nursing and allied health professionals by **advancing education and training** programs

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