Maryland’s hospitals deliver health, hope and healing. 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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