



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 28, 2019

To: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chairman
Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Jennifer Witten, Vice President of Government Affairs
Maryland Hospital Association

Re: Letter of Concern - House Bill 892: Health Information – Commercial Sale

Dear Chairman Pendergrass:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 62 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 892. Maryland's hospitals are committed to protecting patients' sensitive medical and personal information. Hospitals want patients to know where their data is sent, who it is shared with, and to be the ones to make those decisions.

However, MHA would like to better understand the full implications of the bill on hospitals and determine whether patients' private data already is protected under existing laws and practices.

Most health care providers fall under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. This law includes strict standards for the protection of patients' data and private health information.

Maryland also has a highly valued statewide Health Information Exchange — Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) — that allows health care providers to transfer data securely through electronic networks among health information systems. The exchange allows care providers to deliver the right health information to the right place at the right time — providing safer, timelier, efficient, patient-centered care.

CRISP gives patients the ability to interact with the HIE to determine how their information is shared — a key goal under HB 892.

MHA would like more time to fully explore the potential impact of this bill on Maryland's hospitals that perform research and clinical trials given the vast amount of data collected.

The state's hospitals remain committed to safeguarding patients' personal and medical data and respectfully request more time to study the effects of HB 892 on those efforts. We thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.