



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 1030: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Letter of Information to the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

March 6, 2019

Bill Summary

SB 1030 establishes the principles of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future to transform K-12 education in Maryland; establishes a Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program; establishes the Teacher Collaborative Grant Program; and requires certain performance evaluations of local school systems; etc.

MHA Position

Under Maryland's new Total Cost of Care agreement with the federal government, Maryland's hospitals are working to lower costs and improve population health. In addition to treating illness and injury, hospitals are reaching out beyond their four walls to keep people well and improve the health of the communities they serve. The result: hospitals are taking care of the whole person, empowering patients and families, coordinating care among different providers, and addressing social factors that influence people's health.

To achieve these goals, Maryland's hospitals are committed to addressing social determinants of health, including access to equitable and proper education.

That is why the state's hospitals recognize that the work of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, chaired by Brit Kirwan, is critically important to Maryland and the health of all Marylanders. There is a direct two-way link between children's health and educational attainment, from pre-k through high school and beyond.

For children to succeed in schools, they need to be healthy — mentally and physically. There are several key connections between health care and education, including community schools, which use public schools as “community hubs” to bring educators, families, and community partners together to offer a range of services. These include before-and after-school learning opportunities throughout the year, as well as health and social supports.

That clear synergy between health and education is enhanced under the new Total Cost of Care Model, which is why the state's hospital field supports the mission of the Kirwan Commission to strengthen education — and, ultimately, health outcomes.