



Maryland  
Hospital Association

## Senate Bill 774 – Hospitals – Community Benefits

**Position: *Support with Amendments***

March 5, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

### **MHA Position**

Maryland's 61 nonprofit hospitals and health systems care for millions of people each year, treating 2.3 million in emergency departments and delivering more than 67,000 babies. The 108,000 people they employ are [caring for Maryland](#) around-the-clock every day—delivering leading edge, high-quality medical service and investing a combined \$1.75 billion in their communities, expanding access to housing, education, transportation, and food.

Every hospital in Maryland is a not-for-profit organization. Unlike for-profit hospitals across the country, our hospitals make substantial investments in the health and well-being of their neighbors and tailor their services to the specific needs of the communities they serve.

Last year alone our state's hospitals provided \$744 million in uncompensated care—about \$2 million a day. Additionally, hospitals provided a combined \$1.75 billion in community benefits to support pivotal social indicators of health such as food, housing, and transportation.

These are areas that you wouldn't typically rely on a hospital for, yet our organizations see a need and know their patients won't have a chance to get healthy if they aren't given a basic foundation from which to start from. While they are working to buffer their patients' social needs, nonprofit hospitals also do many things for their communities that no other entity can do. It's comforting to know that our hospitals work year-round to ensure disaster readiness and that they offer intensive and emergent care 24/7/365 days a year.

As a result of changes made to Maryland's community benefits reporting process, current reports do not adequately capture the significant investments and impacts hospitals make for their respective communities every year. Maryland's hospitals appreciate the bill sponsors and Health Services Cost Review Commission's leadership in bringing interested stakeholders together to finalize amendments to SB 774. These amendments enable a Commission-led stakeholder work group to identify opportunities to improve the reporting process. We appreciate the Commission's efforts to align state and federal requirements guiding development of community benefit reports and community health needs assessments.

The Maryland Hospital Association looks forward to working with the Commission and stakeholders to ensure the community benefit reports are as robust as the activity Maryland's hospitals undertake on behalf of their communities. For these reasons, we urge a *favorable with amendments* report.

For more information, please contact:  
Brian Frazee, [Bfrazee@mhaonline.org](mailto:Bfrazee@mhaonline.org)