



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement by Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association,  
on the Better Care Reconciliation Act**

The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017, released by the Senate today, would cause real pain for real people. It would take coverage away from millions of Americans and thousands of Marylanders, especially our most vulnerable. And it would likely trigger deep cuts to the Medicaid program. The Senate bill's aim in short seems to be less about helping people and more about attracting votes. We anxiously await the Congressional Budget Office's estimates of the bill's actual budget and coverage cuts.

High-quality, efficient health care simply cannot be achieved without broad-based, continuous coverage, and the Senate bill, despite its changes, still reduces coverage. Reductions of this magnitude dramatically reduce hospitals' ability to get people the right care, at the right time, in the right setting, which in turn reduces people's chances to live healthier lives. In Maryland, the 300,000 people who gained coverage through the Affordable Care Act, and another 150,000 who gained Medicaid coverage due to a previous state expansion, would be at serious risk.

The loss of broad-based coverage also jeopardizes Maryland's unique hospital payment system, which has benefited the state, insurers, patients and communities by shifting from volume-driven to value-driven care. But without appropriate health care coverage, this shift, which is containing costs as well as improving care, is unsustainable. The result: as unfunded federal costs are shifted to the state, hospitals, which together are our state's largest private sector employer, as well as the state's entire economy, would be placed at severe risk. Our state, our hospitals, and the people we serve deserve better.

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**About the Maryland Hospital Association**

*The Maryland Hospital Association is the advocate for Maryland hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans' hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit [www.mhaonline.org](http://www.mhaonline.org).*