



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 23, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support - House Bill 378- Maryland Health Care Commission - Palliative Care Services- Workgroup

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 378. Palliative care services are an important component of a treatment regimen, and properly delivered palliative care in the community can help prevent unnecessary hospital stays. However, palliative care is often misunderstood and underutilized.

Palliative care is often conflated with hospice care. While both can be offered at the end of a patient's life, palliative care can be delivered while a patient is still receiving treatment for their serious illness. HB 378 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to study the expansion of palliative care and engagement strategies to educate the public.

MHCC has studied hospice and palliative care services and can continue this work. This study can help Maryland form a comprehensive strategy to deliver care to the seriously ill, which is essential to meet the goals of the Total Cost of Care Model.

We hope you find this information useful when deliberating on HB 378 and give the legislation a favorable report.

For more information, please contact:

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