

Maryland General Assembly Sine Die Report

Progress on MHA's 2023 Legislative Priorities



Strengthen Maryland's Hospital Workforce

MHA and the hospital field successfully advocated for significant reforms for this top priority, guided by recommendations from [MHA's Workforce Task Force](#).

- Transferred **oversight of Maryland Board of Nursing** to the Secretary of Health to improve operations and streamline licensure timeline
- **Passed MHA bill** to align state law for **physician credentialing** with new national accreditation timeline
- Created a **pathway for internationally educated nurses** to receive an initial license by removing social security number as a requirement for licensure
- Secured **\$4.4 million in funding for loan assistance** for physicians, physician assistants, and nurses
- Enabled nurse graduates **2 attempts to pass national licensure exam** while maintaining nurse graduate status



Ensure Access to Care

- **Passed MHA bill** to extend reimbursement parity and allow audio-only telehealth for two years while under evaluation
- **Funded 9-8-8 Trust Fund** and crisis system through fiscal year 2025
- Helped **establish a Medicaid pilot** for individuals with severe mental illness to avoid hospital utilization
- Partnered to **expand access to health insurance** affordability and coverage to:
 - Continue premium subsidies for young adults
 - Establish express lane enrollment in Medicaid
 - Require state agencies to explore health and dental care coverage options for undocumented immigrants



Improve Maryland's Medical Liability Environment

- **Defeated** legislation that would have allowed a home birth after cesarean to be performed by direct entry midwives
- **Defeated** trial attorney-backed bills that would have:
 - ✗ Removed the cap on noneconomic damages for personal injury and wrongful death cases
 - ✗ Circumvented discovery process by including audit trails as part of medical records
 - ✗ Expanded the authority of the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

ADDITIONAL MHA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Protected** one-time \$50 million reduction of the Medicaid Deficit Assessment
- **Secured** nearly \$9.9 million for **MHA's capital bond program** for 9 projects. Received commitment to increase funding in future years.
- **Defeated** effort to expand Maryland's False Health Claims Act
- **Amended** legislation mandating operating room space and staff for pediatric dental procedures and instead required state agencies to conduct a regional needs assessment
- **Helped** create exceptions to insurer step therapy protocols and improve patient access to needed prescription medication
- **Advanced** legislation to reduce youth suicide by enhancing safe gun storage requirements
- **Advocated** for inclusion of hospitals as sensitive locations where firearms are not permitted
- **Established** statewide tracking system for sexual assault evidence kits and reformed evidence preservation