



Maryland  
Hospital Association

March 5, 2024

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support with Amendments - House Bill 1174 - State Government - Technology Advisory Commission - Established

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to support and propose amendments to House Bill 1174. As technology rapidly advances beyond the scope of our existing regulatory and statutory framework, any efforts to govern innovations like artificial intelligence (AI) and/or other digital algorithmic processes must balance flexibility, innovation, and accountability. Health care technology for clinical decision-making, service delivery, and patient records has advanced significantly in the last decade alone. All our member hospitals use a form of electronic medical record, health information exchange network, and/or claims clearinghouse to perform day-to-day operations. Some of the vendors behind these applications are starting to integrate AI into their offerings, and others are expected to follow suit.

Hospitals and health care providers must be included from the beginning in any discussions on governing AI to ensure we can provide a digitally optimized health care experience. We recognize that although AI and other algorithmic innovations offer significant potential to boost hospital efficiency and outcomes, it also has the potential to exacerbate biases and crystallize outdated standards. We welcome the opportunity to work with industry experts through this Committee to stay informed and engaged on emerging issues in AI and AI regulation. We offer the following amendment to HB 1174:

On page 4, in line 14, strike "AND"; and in line 17, after "INSTITUTE" insert:

“(XVII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION;”

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 1174 and MHA's proposed amendment.

For more information, please contact:  
Pegeen Townsend, Consultant  
Ptownsend@mhaonline.org