



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 177 - Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge

Position: *Support with Amendments*

February 7, 2024

House Health & Government Operations Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 177. Maryland's 32 birthing hospitals deliver more than 67,000 babies each year and are committed to a safe delivery, hospital stay, and discharge home.

Maryland's hospitals support the goals of HB 177 and acknowledge the life-saving role that safe sleep practices have in preventing infant mortality. As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland hospitals provide safe sleep education before discharge.

MHA worked closely with the bill sponsor and stakeholders, including the Baltimore City Health Department, to develop consensus amendments for HB 177. These amendments ensure safe sleep education is provided before an infant is discharged from the hospital while allowing flexibility to choose the method for delivering the information and confirming receipt. As birthing hospitals adopt new technologies to improve patient experience, such as education via personal devices like tablets, permitting greater latitude allows for innovation and improved retention.

We appreciate the bill sponsor raising awareness of this important issue and look forward to continued partnership to promote safe sleep environments and reduce infant mortality.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on HB 177 with the sponsor's consensus amendments.

For more information, please contact:

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