



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 387- Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

Position: *Support*

February 13, 2025

House Ways & Means Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 387.

Hospitals are on the front lines, providing essential support to communities and individuals affected by violence. Interpersonal violence represents a significant public health issue, with victims often requiring services beyond traditional acute care. These services include but are not limited to safe housing and employment opportunities, which are crucial for recovery and reintegration into society. The inception of the first hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) by Dr. Carnell Cooper in 1998 at the [R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center](#) marked a pivotal moment in addressing this need. This program aimed to halt the recurring cycle of patients treated in the emergency department returning home without further support, only to come back again needing care.

[HVIPs](#) exist across the state and have demonstrated their efficacy nationally by providing peer support groups, job readiness training, education, and additional resources. Providing comprehensive care yields social benefits that go beyond individual health improvements, enhancing community well-being and generating economic savings. [Research](#) indicates that HVIPs significantly reduce repeat victimizations, decrease the likelihood of gang involvement, improve overall quality of life, alleviate hospital debts, and even minimize imprisonment rates among participants. These programs provide critical health services and act as a bridge for uninsured patients to access health insurance or crime victim assistance programs, proving to be [cost-effective](#) while delivering substantial community benefits.

One of the persistent challenges facing these programs has been the [lack of consistent funding](#), which impacts the ability of hospitals to deliver continuous and expanded services. Passage of HB 387 will provide a stable funding source for these programs—enhancing public health and safety through sustained support of HVIPs, which are essential for building safer, healthier communities across Maryland.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 387.

For more information, please contact:
Jane Krienke, Director, Government Affairs & Policy
jkrienke@mhaonline.org