

HEALTHY HOSPITALS. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: 2026 HOSPITAL PRIORITIES

Maryland hospitals care for patients 24/7/365.

To sustain access to care in every community, state policy must support hospital stability, a strong workforce, and fair payment practices. The care Marylanders rely on takes all of us. In 2026, MHA asks the General Assembly to advance policies that strengthen hospital operations and protect access to care.

ENSURE FAIR PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY CARE

Stop Emergency Department Denials and Downcoding

- ✓ Prohibit downcoding of ED claims based on final diagnosis and strengthen notice, review, and enforcement

SUPPORT MARYLAND'S HOSPITAL WORKFORCE

Oppose Mandated Hospital-Wide Staffing Committees

- ✓ Reject one-size-fits-all mandates
- ✓ Recognize hospitals' statewide voluntary staffing commitments

Add a Hospital Representative to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)

- ✓ Add a designated hospital representative to ensure acute care needs are considered to provide balanced input and support practical implementation

SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO THE AHEAD MODEL

Preserve Access to Care for All Maryland Communities

- ✓ Ensure that hospitals have sufficient resources to provide critical care 24/7/365

PROTECT PATIENT CARE FROM RISING LEGAL & INSURANCE COSTS

Defend Maryland's Medical Liability Framework

- ✓ Oppose efforts to weaken caps on noneconomic damages and support transparency and consumer protections for third-party litigation funding

MHA 2026 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & POLICY TEAM



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