Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 1051- Public Health - Patient Access to Medication

Position: *Oppose*
March 5, 2026
House Health Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in opposition of House Bill 1051.

Maryland hospitals make every effort to ensure patients leave the hospital with the medications they need. However, HB 1051 creates a one size fits all requirement by mandating the same bedside medication program in every hospital, regardless of differences in size, staffing, or pharmacy resources.

Hospitals already follow rigorous discharge processes that focus on safety, clear instructions, and timely transitions home. However, the differences across Maryland hospitals make a bedside medication mandate difficult to implement uniformly across different hospitals without harming patient flow and stretching resources. Some hospitals have onsite outpatient pharmacies while others do not. Even where similar programs exist, they often run only during limited hours or focus on high need patients. HB 1051 would require new staffing, equipment, and technology, as well as new workflows that many facilities cannot readily support. These requirements, while well intended, could inadvertently impact access to care, hospital throughput, and emergency department wait times.

Maryland hospitals simply cannot absorb new operational and financial burdens. Under the state's unique payment model, hospitals operate under a state-approved global budget, which means they cannot simply raise prices to cover unexpected expenses. At the same time, hospitals are facing major financial strain from looming Medicaid cuts, growing uncertainty at the federal level, and the ongoing transition to the AHEAD Model.

For these reasons, we request an unfavorable report on HB 1051.

For more information, please contact:
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