



House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 11, 2025

House Bill 1437 – *Catastrophic Health Emergency – Immunity for Health Care Providers – Repeal*
POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, we submit this letter of opposition for House Bill 1437.

House Bill 1437 would repeal the immunity clause of the law governing catastrophic health emergencies. This clause provides limited immunity to health care providers who act in good faith during a catastrophic health emergency, which must be declared by the Governor. Such an emergency was declared during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this immunity clause is to ensure that our already strained health care workforce remains willing to work and provide essential health care services during such emergencies, despite standards of care and normal protocols being at times unattainable, especially given the fact that federal and State guidance changed almost daily. One needs only picture our overrun hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic to appreciate that normal standards of operation were impossible to attain, with personnel, equipment, and supplies all in limited supply or unavailable. The State should not expect our physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals to expose themselves to liability equivalent to that which exists under normal operating circumstances during these emergencies.

A repeal of the good faith immunity clause would completely undermine this needed liability protection and the willingness of providers to care for patients at the most critical time. For these reasons, the above-referenced organizations oppose this legislation.

For more information call:

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