

March 9, 2022

Marcia Boyle  
4141 Red Bandana Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill 915- Support**

Dear Chairman Pendergrass:

I am a member of the Board of the Maryland Patient Safety Center, Inc. ("MPSC" or "The Center") and a Commissioner on the Maryland Health Care Commission. I strongly support **House Bill 915 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Patient Safety Center – Designation and Fund**. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Since serving on the MPSC board since September, 2020, I have seen first hand the incredible work the MPSC is doing on behalf of improving quality and outcomes across Maryland's health care continuum. The Center's mission and programs are more vital now than they have ever been as the Maryland health care industry faces a workforce crisis and many more challenges created by the pandemic.

I have served as a commissioner on the Maryland Health Care Commission as a patient advocate since 2018, and during that time have been increasingly aware of the issues of health disparities, patient safety for nursing homes and long term facilities, the impact of the pandemic on the workforce in all medical facilities, with the resulting patient safety concerns. The work of MPSC is more important than ever, and without sustained ongoing funding, cannot focus on the priorities of both the center and the State. I am also a past president and founder of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, a national not for profit patient organization for the primary immune deficiency diseases.

The MPSC key initiatives have included:

Caring for the Caregiver- A very timely and successful initiative, this important program is focused on peer support, resiliency, and the emotional well being of the health care workforce. This program is being used in hospitals across Maryland and throughout the country.

Health Equity- Due to significant disparities in outcomes for pregnant black women in Maryland, the Center and the Maryland Hospital Association have created the Maternal Health Equity Project to educate and develop resources for non-obstetric providers on maternal morbidity, racial bias, and the value of the patient's voice and experience. The center has also facilitated education regarding COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in communities and healthcare staff of color.

Improving Sepsis Survival- This important program resulted in increased sepsis survival rates in two Collaborative cohorts through early identification and rapid initiation of treatment.

Facility Acquired Infections – Through the Center’s Clean Collaboratives, hospitals and nursing homes across the state have reduced facility-acquired infections.

Cesarean Sections- A state-wide collaborative has reduced primary (first-time) C-Section rates.

Falls- A collaborative has reduced injuries related to falls in long-term care facilities.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome – A collaborative decreased lengths of stay and hospital transfers (and cost) for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Hospital Hand Hygiene – Through the only statewide collaborative effort in hospitals, this program resulted in increased hand hygiene compliance by healthcare providers.

I have been impressed with the success of the Center to convene and educate partners through smaller collaboratives targeted at specific patient safety issues and annual conferences reaching a larger set of consumers, providers, and facilities.

The Health Services Cost Review Commission originally provided “seed funding” for the Center, to launch and expand operations, and this funding will completely expire soon. It is essential for the health of the citizens of Maryland to ensure MPSC have an ongoing funding source.

The center’s annual budget is approximately \$1.7 million in FY22, down from \$1.9 million in FY21. Other revenue sources include membership dues, fees for educational programming, and restricted grants. A stable revenue source will allow the MPSC to continue to make progress on the priorities of the Center and those of the State, and allow the Center to begin work on other important initiatives designed to improve patient and health care worker safety and well-being, health equity, and quality of care across the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this critically important legislations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia F. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marcia Boyle  
Maryland Patient Safety Center Board Member  
Maryland Health Care Commission, Commissioner  
443 824 2272