



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 447 – Hospitals - Emergency Medical Conditions - Procedures – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 447 – Hospitals - Emergency Medical Conditions - Procedures. SB 447 requires a hospital to conduct screening on an individual presenting at an emergency department of the hospital to determine whether the individual has an emergency medical condition, establishes requirements and prohibitions related to the treatment and transfer of an individual who has an emergency medical condition, and prohibits a hospital from taking adverse action against a provider for not transferring a patient who is not stabilized.

This bill mirrors the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), which requires hospitals with emergency departments to provide a medical screening examination to any individual who comes to the emergency department and requests such an examination, and prohibits hospitals with emergency departments from refusing to examine or treat individuals with an emergency medical condition<sup>1</sup>. EMTALA applies to hospitals that participate in Medicare, whereas this bill would apply to all hospitals in Maryland, regardless of Medicare participation. The Department supports mandating hospitals to screen for, treat, and stabilize emergency medical conditions, including through the provision of or referral for pregnancy termination services when needed. SB 447 would codify important standards of emergency care in Maryland, which will save lives, even if there are changes at the federal level to EMTALA.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/certificationandcompliance/downloads/emtala.pdf>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Herrera Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent than the last name "Herrera Scott".

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary