



**Senate Bill 336**  
**Hospitals - Designation of Lay Caregivers**

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**11 February 2016**

**SUPPORT**

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The ***Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform*** (Coalition) is a nonpartisan, statewide alliance of thousands of individuals and 100 organizations. It works to promote health equity through access to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for all Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for Senate Bill 336 - Designation of Lay Caregivers.

Maryland's All-Payer Model/Medicare Waiver has created unique opportunities to improve care coordination and, most particularly, at the time an individual is discharged from the hospital. This can be an extremely challenging time and many individuals may lack the required support for a smooth transition resulting in the optimal health outcome. SB336 seeks to address this by providing for an individual designated by the patient as their "lay caregiver," who has the requisite information address the patients health care, and potentially other, needs.

Importantly, we believe that the legislation secures the privacy of the patient while not placing an undue or inappropriate burden on the hospitals.

We appreciate the leadership of Senator Kelley and the other co-sponsors and provide our support for SB336 and urge a favorable report.