



November 23, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building, Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing on behalf of the Safety-Net Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP), a group of private, non-profit hospitals that serve especially large numbers of low-income, Medicaid-covered, and uninsured patients, to express our strong support for House Bill 1737 which would provide vital liability protections for health care providers and facilities during the COVID-19 disaster declaration.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, hospitals and health care professionals have been an integral part of the commonwealth's efforts to combat this dangerous disease. Although we have learned a tremendous amount from those early days of the pandemic, there is still a lot we don't know, and as we confront this new, unprecedented surge in cases, it is more important than ever to give our frontline health care providers every tool necessary to wage this terrible battle.

Medical professionals and hospitals on the frontlines should be permitted to use their clinical judgment without risk or fear from civil liability for decisions made in good faith. House Bill 1737, which was recently sent to your desk for consideration, would provide civil liability protections for the medical decisions made in caring for Pennsylvania's citizens during the COVID-19 disaster declaration. This legislation would protect hospitals and providers from questionable lawsuits and the financial harm they could cause, especially at a time when hospitals have experienced significant financial stress.

We respectfully urge you to sign House Bill 1737, which would provide a vital tool to the health care community, into law and ensure the stability of Pennsylvania's safety net during this time of immense need.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership of the commonwealth's response to this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael R. Chirieleison'.

Michael R. Chirieleison
President

