

Consumer Action for a Strong Economy Applauds Introduction of Community Benefit Bills to Strengthen Oversight of Nonprofit Hospitals

Annapolis, Maryland – February 13, 2026 – Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE) applauds lawmakers in the Maryland General Assembly for introducing Senate Bill 0832 and its companion legislation House Bill 1136, taking decisive, bipartisan action to strengthen oversight and accountability for nonprofit hospitals across the state.

The bills, short-titled *Nonprofit Hospitals – Community Benefits*, require certain nonprofit hospitals to meet defined community benefit standards as a condition of maintaining their tax-exempt status. The legislation strengthens financial transparency, expands reporting requirements, and directs regulators to monitor compliance and enforce standards when hospitals fall short.

Through the introduction of these pieces of legislation, Delegate Dana Jones and Senator Stephen Hershey are confronting skyrocketing healthcare costs, placing healthcare affordability and consumer protection at the forefront of the legislative agenda for this session. Their leadership on this issue reinforces the principle that tax-exempt hospitals must deliver measurable value to the communities that support them.

“We commend Delegate Jones and Senator Hershey for leading this effort,” said CASE President Matt Kandrach. “These bills put patients first and move Maryland toward a more transparent, affordable, and accountable healthcare system.”

The legislation delivers tangible benefits for patients: It requires clearer reporting on charity care, financial assistance policies, and executive compensation, giving the public a transparent view of how hospitals spend public subsidies. Moreover, it empowers regulators to act when hospitals fail to meet their obligations, and it discourages wasteful spending that diverts resources away from patient care.

Maryland families continue to face rising premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs. Lawmakers must ensure that every healthcare dollar advances patient care and strengthens community health – not administrative excess or opaque financial practices. SB 0832 and HB 1136 advance that goal and form part of a broader bipartisan effort to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse across the healthcare system.

“Maryland families deserve confidence that nonprofit hospitals honor the public trust,” said Kandrach. “These bills guarantee that tax-exempt status comes with real accountability, meaningful community investment, and responsible stewardship of healthcare dollars.”

CASE will continue working with policymakers and stakeholders to lower costs, expand access, and protect patients from unfair practices.

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