



VIRGINIA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION  
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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: *VHHA Support for Senate Bill 745 and House Bill 424 - Legislation to prohibit in-network steering of pathology/laboratory services by Health Insurance Plans*

Dear Governor Spanberger:

On behalf of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), a statewide organization representing Virginia's hospitals and health systems, we urge your support and signature of Senate Bill 745, patroned by Senator Kannan Srinivasan. Senate Bill 745 and its companion, House Bill 424, patroned by Delegate Destiny LeVere Bolling, both passed the General Assembly with strong bipartisan support.

Virginia hospitals support this legislation because it addresses insurance practices that can disrupt coordinated care and delay diagnosis for patients. Under current law, some health plans restrict pathology and laboratory referrals to a single designated commercial laboratory—even when hospital-based or other in-network laboratories are available. These restrictions can complicate care coordination between physicians and hospital-based specialists and may delay critical diagnostic results needed to guide patient treatment.

The legislation ensures physicians can refer specimens to any qualified in-network pathology or laboratory provider, including hospital-based laboratories, based on clinical considerations and patient needs. By removing insurer-imposed referral limitations, this legislation helps support timely diagnosis, better coordination of care, and continued access to high-quality diagnostic services within Virginia hospitals.

We're grateful for your thoughtful consideration and continued partnership on healthcare policy priorities and reiterate our request for your support and signature of the Senate Bill 745. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Brent Rawlings".

R. Brent Rawlings  
SVP & General Counsel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Dime".

Julie Dime  
VP of Government Affairs