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February 26, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee

Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

**SUPPORT SB 661 Health Insurance – Prostate Cancer Screening – Prohibiting Cost Sharing**

Dear Madame Chairman Kelley:

As a practicing urologist in Maryland, I am asking for your support for SB 661 to eliminate cost sharing for prostate cancer screening with the PSA blood test. Urologists diagnose and treat most forms of prostate cancer and taking care of men with the disease constitutes a major part of my clinical practice. While early detection is important for all types of illness, this is particularly salient for prostate cancer. There is a 99% chance of surviving at least 10 years when men are diagnosed with localized disease as opposed to less than 30% survival when men are diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer. Most cancer screening occurs in the primary care setting and the PSA test is the main screening tool used to find prostate cancer. Easy access to this simple blood test is essential to diagnosing this cancer at a stage where management is likely to be successful.

Chesapeake Urology is the largest provider of urologic care in Maryland. In 2018, almost 2,500 Marylanders were diagnosed with prostate cancer within our practice. We continue to see, with dismay, the detrimental effects of decreased PSA testing in our patients. Over the past 7 years, the number of patients presenting to our practice with incurable prostate cancer has increased by over 60%, representing an additional 100+ men/year. Treatment at this stage of the disease is more difficult for patients and more costly for payors. Removing obstacles to effective prostate cancer screening will save the lives of men in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I urge your support of SB 661.  
Sincerely,

Alan L. Kaplan, MD, MBA  
Chesapeake Urology Associates