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Department of Health**



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**Health Services Cost Review Commission**

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February 28, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) submits this letter of information with amendment for House Bill 1081 (HB 1081) titled, "Hospital Facilities – Hospitals – Medical Debt Protection". HB 1081 requires hospitals to follow certain procedures when attempting to collect medical debt from certain patients.

As a hospital regulatory agency, the HSCRC has legal authority to set hospital rates and ensure hospital compliance with Maryland's statute and regulations so that Marylanders have access to high quality, low cost healthcare. While we appreciate the spirit of the bill, the HSCRC does not have expertise in prescribing alternative forms of documentation to determine income levels for patients who lack tax records. The HSCRC therefore proposes the below amendment, which removes language that assigns this role to HSCRC. Furthermore, the HSCRC encourages the inclusion of new language that provides specific examples of other forms of documentation that hospitals should consider in cases where patients cannot provide tax documentation.

Please feel free to contact me at [tequila.terry1@marlyand.gov](mailto:tequila.terry1@marlyand.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tequila Terry' in a cursive script.

Tequila Terry  
Deputy Director

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1081  
(First Reader File Bill)

On page 5, strike beginning with “**If**” in line 13 down through “**REGULATIONS**” in line 17 and substitute “**IF THE PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE TAX DOCUMENTATION, A HOSPITAL SHALL CONSIDER OTHER CREDIBLE AND VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE PATIENT TO DETERMINE THAT PATIENT’S ADJUSTED GROSS MONTHLY INCOME**”.