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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 26, 2020

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health & Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 1485; Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement
and
Support of HB 1496; Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement for Transportation and Medical Services

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 5-0, supports House Bills 1485 and 1496. Each would amend Health General Article, §15-114.1 and would require reasonable reimbursement to emergency service transporters for services to recipients of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

Emergency service transporters in Washington County are frequently called to assist Medical Assistance recipients who then decline to be transported to the hospital. Under current practice, the emergency service provider is not compensated for the services that have been provided, causing a hardship to the providers of such services. HB 1485 would correct this situation to require compensation for the services rendered even in cases where transport to the hospital is subsequently refused by the patient. Additionally, the current rate of compensation to emergency transporters is grossly insufficient, both in absolute terms and in comparison to neighboring states. HB 1496 would increase the rate paid per mile to a sustainable and adequate sum, which would permit providers to continue operations in a solvent fashion.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully urges the Committee to enact HB 1485 and HB 1496.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 
Jeffrey A. Cline, President