

**Deborah R. Rivkin**  
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March 11, 2020

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 240, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support - House Bill 1663 – “COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020”

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (“CareFirst”) is in strong support of House Bill 1663 “COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020.”

CareFirst recently announced actions that we are taking, across our jurisdictions and working with our self-insured accounts, to ensure that our members do not face barriers to care while seeking testing or treatment for COVID-19. We are encouraging our members to seek care in a virtual setting if their primary care provider is not available, such as CareFirst’s 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line or CareFirst Video Visit, to ensure access to health services, avoid potential risks of infection and ease the burden of emergency room personnel.

We stand ready to work with the General Assembly, the Administration, and other stakeholders to continue to provide support for the communities that we serve. We will also continue to share information and updates for our members and communities on our website, [www.carefirst.com](http://www.carefirst.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. Rivkin".

Deborah R. Rivkin

Cc: Members, House Health and Government Operation