



**CARE BRAVELY**

SB834 – Health Insurance – Two-Sided Incentive Arrangements & Capitated Payments – Authorization – March 9

Senate Finance Committee

Testimony of Neil Meltzer, President and Chief Executive Officer, LifeBridge Health and David Krajewski, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, LifeBridge Health

Position: **SUPPORT**

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We are writing in SUPPORT of SB834 - Health Insurance – Two-Sided Incentive Arrangements & Capitated Payments – Authorization. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County, and; Grace Medical Center in Baltimore (formerly Bon Secours Hospital).

SB824 expands voluntary contracting options between provider organizations and health plans for commercial populations in Maryland. As Maryland leads the nation in innovation in health care, this bill moves us one step forward in enabling the full transition from volume-based service payment incentives to value-based care for patients. Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model already promotes value-based care, and given our historic focus at LifeBridge on addressing social determinants of health in creative ways, LifeBridge Health supports the expansion of value-based contracting arrangements provided in this bill to allow us to continue to both incentivize and reward high-quality, efficient, and transformative care delivery to all our communities.

Rewarding health care practitioners leads to improved health outcomes and the overall enhanced patient experience. We have already seen the benefit of this process and support this bill as an even greater “push” toward additional innovation among providers, practitioners and health insurers. We believe this legislation supporting value-based care will promote even greater innovation between providers and health insurers, leading to more effective and efficient care delivery that will in turn help the health care system address disparities and access challenges.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB834.

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