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Education, Health, and
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8th, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair and Members

Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB295 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters –
Reimbursement

Position: Favorable

Chairwoman Kelley and Finance Committee Members:

SB 295 alters the reimbursement rate for certain services provided by emergency service transporters. For over twenty years the Medicaid reimbursement rate for volunteer fire, rescue, or EMS has been fixed at a \$100 per transport. An increase to this rate is long overdue.

SB295 would gradually increase the reimbursement rate for transports of Medicaid patients by \$25 starting in FY23 until the rate reaches \$300 which is on par with our surrounding states.

In addition to increasing the rate it would allow reimbursement for “treat and release” or “treat but not transport” of Medicaid patients. These cases have become unfortunately quite common during the opioid crisis as our providers come out and offer on-site treatment but the patient refuses transport to a healthcare facility.

A new addition to this bill from the past two years is allowing for the reimbursement of Mobile Integrated Health. Mobile Integrated Health is when EMS partners with other health care professionals, such as nurse practitioners, community health workers, social workers, and physicians to conduct home visits to assess, treat and refer low acuity patients with chronic conditions who frequently call 9-1-1 to needed services in the community. MIH programs can also focus on patients identified by hospitals as being at high risk for hospital readmission.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable ruling for SB 295.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Gallion".

Senator Jason Gallion