



**Testimony of Ricarra Jones, Political Director of 1199SEIU on  
SB 734 Health and Health Insurance – Primary Care Reform Commission Act  
Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

February 23, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Delores G. Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee:

1199SEIU Healthcare Workers East is the largest healthcare union in the country with, with over 450,000 members throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Florida and Washington, D.C. **We fully support SB 734 with amendment.**

SB 734 The Health and Health Insurance – Primary Care Reform Commission Act (“PCRC Act”) would positively impact Marylanders by establishing a commission which will review and issue recommendations on improving primary care spending by all payors, and issue recommendations on improving crucial areas of the health care system.

The PCRC Act would create a commission tasked with undertaking an in-depth review of primary care spending by all payors in the context of overall health care spending in the State. The commission will also issue recommendations on the following key areas:

- improving the quality of and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity;
- reducing health care disparities;
- avoiding increased costs to patients and the health care system
- means of reducing barriers to primary care access and utilization;
- proposed changes to the definition of “primary care” for the future; and
- regarding recommendations to increase spending on primary care by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations.

The commission created by the PCRC Act would be composed of industry experts and leaders in government, and should also include representation of health care workers. 1199SEIU has provided an Amendment with this testimony for the purpose of adding representatives of healthcare employee unions to the membership of the commission. 1199SEIU would gladly serve on this commission.

The PCRC Act establishes a means to obtain important insight and guidance on how to improve many significant aspects of health care in the State, to the great benefit of Marylanders.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB 734** and ask for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT** report.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones  
Maryland/DC Political Director  
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers- East  
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## Senate Bill 734

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By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

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### AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 734

**On Page 3, after Line 14, add:**

9. REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEE UNION.