

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Testimony of Dr. Seth Martin

Cardiologist and Board Member of the American Heart Association

**Support of SB244 Maryland Medical Assistance Program- Self Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring**

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee today. My name is Dr. Seth Martin and I am a cardiologist and board member for the American Heart Association. I am here to extend my strong support for Senate Bill 244.

High Blood Pressure also known as Hypertension is often referred to as the silent killer and for far too many of my patients it is something they struggle to control. What I have found from my years of practice and the research literature<sup>1</sup> supports is that when a patient is able to have clinical support and a home blood pressure device they are able to have greater success in monitoring and managing their blood pressure at home. Patients need clinical support in understanding their devices and in having checks in to make sure they are monitoring it correctly. *Insert story here.*

As a physician, I get pulled in many different directions every day, being able to properly catalog my time spent educating patient and supporting them in managing their high blood pressure is essential. This legislation allows for new codes to be turned on and for proper documentation and reimbursement for support given.

For all the reasons outlined above, I urge a favorable report on SB 244.

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<sup>1</sup> Uhlig K, Patel K, Ip S, Kitsios GD, Balk EM. Self-measured blood pressure monitoring in the management of hypertension: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ann Intern Med.* 2013;159(3):185–194.