



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 23, 2022

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 734 – Health and Health Insurance – Primary Care Reform Commission

Dear Chair Kelley:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 734.

SB 734 would establish the Primary Care Reform Commission (Commission) to review, examine, and make determinations regarding primary care spending in Maryland. The Commission would recommend ways to improve the quality of and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding higher costs to patients and the health care system. To inform the Commission recommendations, all payers, including Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, will be required to provide the Commission with information regarding the amount each payer spent on primary care services and the total amount each payer spent on health care services for enrollees.

Maryland hospitals support efforts to expand access, improve quality, and reduce unnecessary health spending. We are also focused on promoting equity and addressing social determinants of health. As part of our [commitment to racial equity](#), we work with members of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group and Health Equity Task Force to identify partners and opportunities. Maryland hospitals are committed to embracing responsive strategies to address disparities in health outcomes and ensure all Marylanders can be as healthy as possible.

Access to primary care is vital for patients. People [without a source of primary care](#) are more likely to be hospitalized, visit emergency departments, delay needed care or preventive services, have higher health care costs, and experience poorer health outcomes. Conversely, access to primary care has been shown to lower health care costs, improve outcomes, and reduce health inequity.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on Senate Bill 734.

For more information, please contact:
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