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**Senate Bill 734 – Health and Health Insurance – Primary Care
Reform Commission**

OPPOSE

Senate Finance Committee

February 23, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 734 – Health and Health Insurance – Primary Care Reform Commission.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association’s (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that serve over 1.5 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program are committed to identifying ways to improve quality and access to care for all Medicaid participants.

While we strongly support efforts to improve member access to- and utilization of- primary care services, SB 734 contains several problematic provisions and requirements.

The information that is required to be reported by the MCOs to the Commission created by the legislation is already reported to the Maryland Department of Health. Requirements surrounding the submission of information on primary care spending and utilization and other data pertaining to the care of our members is contained in our contracts executed annually with the State. Any information requested by the Commission should be compiled and submitted by our regulator – not by nine separate organizations- in order to avoid any variations in data collection or create any regulatory or antitrust concerns.

In addition, as part of the enhanced focus on primary care delivery throughout Maryland’s health care system, the MCOs, in close partnership with the Department of Health, have worked to assist in the design of the HealthChoice alignment to the Maryland Primary Care Program, which is on-track to be fully implemented for the HealthChoice program by January 2023. The MCOs have worked with MDH and other stakeholders for the past year developing a program framework that best serves our members and the goals of the Program, and our work continues to ensure a timely and successful program start. For these reasons, this legislation is duplicative to efforts well underway by the State and the MCOs serving the HealthChoice program.

Furthermore, if passed in its current form, we believe that the omission of a MCO Representative to serve on the Commission will present challenges as the group begins its work. It is necessary to include a representative of the MCOs on the Commission to discuss the unique structure of the HealthChoice program, the delivery of care to our members, and to speak to the data which is required to be submitted to the Commission. If the bill were to advance, we respectfully request that a MCO Representative be added to the membership of the Commission.

For these reasons, we **respectfully oppose Senate Bill 734**.

The MCOs welcome the opportunity for continued engagement in policy discussions surrounding primary care initiatives and look forward to continued collaboration with the State as we work to identify ways to improve access to affordable high-quality care for all Medicaid participants.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.