

# APTA Maryland

## Board of Directors

### President

JD Sheppard, PT, DPT

### Past President

Kevin Platt, PT, DPT, MBA

### Vice President

Roy Film, PT, DPT, MPT

### Secretary

Monique Caruth, PT, DPT

### Treasurer

Melissa Reinhardt, PT, MSPT

### Director for Education

Gretchen Michaels, PT

### Director for Gov't Relations

Carolyn Chanoski, PT, DPT, MS

### Director for Practice

Michael Zarro, PT, DPT

### Director for Reimbursement

Krista Frederic, PT, DPT

### Director

Carolyn Dockins PT, DPT

### Director

Richard T. Peret, PT

### Director

Michael Ukoha PT, DPT

### Chief Delegate

Linda Horn, PT, DScPT

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

## RE: Senate Bill 834 - Health Insurance - Two-Sided Incentive Arrangements and Capitated Payments - Authorization

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Kelley,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 834.

The bill, as drafted, will allow insurance carriers to enter into "two-sided" arrangements with health care practitioners, whereby they can earn upside risk through gain sharing or bonuses, and experience downside risk through the recoupment of funds. The bill also allows for capitated payment model arrangements.

Physical Therapist's involvement in patient care improves outcomes and reduces cost and strain to the healthcare delivery system. Physical Therapists understand the importance of innovation in health care and support value-based care models, both as a profession and behalf of its patients.

APTA MD has concerns when it becomes unclear what role physical therapists play in health care models, and how much protection is afforded them as providers in these models. PT, as a specialty, at times gets overlooked and encapsulated in care models and episodes of care. This limits our ability to objectively determine and control our involvement in value-based care models.

We understand Senate Bill 834 was initially focused on physician involvement, and now expands to all health care practitioners. In our review of the bill, we do not see sufficient protections for PT involvement in these models. Again, we understand efforts have been made to secure protections for providers who choose to be involved and for those who opt not to. Absent these protections we ask for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 834.

Sincerely,

*JD Sheppard*

John D. Sheppard, II, PT, DPT  
President, APTA Maryland