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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 213- Health Information Exchange Statement- Definition and Privacy Regulations **February 2, 2022**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee

Thank you for allowing me to present HB 213, Health Information Exchange - Definition and Privacy Regulations.

In 2021, we passed HB 1375 which simplified health information privacy for all Marylanders. HB 1375 required the establishment of a one-stop opt-out website so that consumers can choose to opt-out once and have their privacy instructions be received and respected by all 11 HIEs.

As originally drafted, HB 1375 included language that conformed Maryland's statutory definition of HIE to a new federal definition that went into effect last year. Various stakeholders requested more time to workshop that definition and the final version of HB1375 directed the Maryland Health Care Commission to convene stakeholders and recommend a new definition by December 1. HB 213 represents the work of the MHCC and stakeholders on that definition.

Aligning the definitions increases interoperability among HIE's. Lack of interoperability is a barrier to data exchange and impedes the delivery of optimal health care. Improving provider access to patient health information through interoperable HIE's improves provider efficiency, saving time, money, and ultimately improves healthcare for Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge a favorable report of HB 213.