



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Maryland Section

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine Krone

DATE: March 30, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 734 – *Maryland Health Care Commission – Primary Care Report and Workgroup*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (Medchi), the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC), and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 734 as amended by the Senate.

Senate Bill 734 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on an analysis of primary care investment and ways to improve the quality of and access to primary care services. The bill requires the Commission to convene a workgroup to develop the report, including interpreting the results of the required analysis and making recommendations related to its findings. The workgroup consists of representatives of the primary care physician community, including MDAAP, MACHC, and MDACOG. The work group also includes the Maryland Primary Care Program, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Maryland Department of Health, and payors.

The above-named organizations' strong support of this legislation is in part tied to the amendments adopted by the Senate. Of particular note is the requirement for MHCC to first establish a plan for the required analysis and report based on input from workgroup participants. The plan would be due on December 1, 2023. Once this framework is in place, the analysis of the primary care investment and ways to improve the quality of and access to primary care services would begin. This planning stage is particularly critical to ensure the study captures the unique components of primary care services. For example, the appropriate analysis of adult primary care investment will likely look very different than the analysis of pediatric primary care investment.

The General Assembly has recognized the importance of primary care through numerous initiatives over the last several years. This workgroup provides a means by which the State and relevant

stakeholders can holistically evaluate the various investments and programs to ensure the State is reaching its objectives and maximizing the value of its investment. For these reasons, a favorable report on the bill as amended is requested.

**For more information call:**

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