



March 30, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support as Amended- Senate Bill 734 - Maryland Health Care Commission - Primary Care Report and Workgroup

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

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 require the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to provide an annual report to the General Assembly about primary care. The bill also would require MHCC to form a work group to create a report to analyze primary care investments over the previous year and 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 increased costs to patients and health care systems.

Maryland hospitals support efforts to expand access, improve quality, and reduce unnecessary health spending. We also focus 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 as amended.

For more information, please contact:  
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