



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 534 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 534.

House Bill 534 requires Medicaid to provide coverage for self-measured blood pressure monitoring for all Medicaid recipients diagnosed with uncontrolled blood pressure. Coverage includes both the provision of validated home blood pressure monitors but also reimbursement for provision of professional services related to the training, data collection and interpretation, and delivery of co-interventions.

The provision of care through telemedicine, including remote patient monitoring, has not only addressed necessary access challenges associated with providing in-person care but also highlighted the benefits of facilitating home monitoring of conditions such as high blood pressure. Uncontrolled high blood pressure is commonly a condition for recipients that are likely to have other health challenges that make regular visits to a health care practitioner to check their blood pressure difficult. Failure to regularly monitor blood pressure is likely to result in preventable illness, poor health outcomes, and increased costs.

Regardless of the future authorization framework for telehealth services and remote patient monitoring, the coverage of self-measured blood pressure monitoring should become a permanent benefit/coverage for Medicaid recipients. It will improve health outcomes, prevent unnecessary deaths, and result in related cost savings. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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