

SB 245 - CHRC - FAV - FIN.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Luckner

Position: FAV



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21401

Wes Moore, Governor; Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor;
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission is pleased to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 245 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation.

Senate Bill 245 would extend the sunset of the Commission from 2025 to 2028. It would also subject the Commission to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act and authorize the Department of Legislative Services to conduct an evaluation of the Commission by January 1, 2025.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission was created in 2005 to expand access to health care in underserved communities in Maryland. Since its inception, the Commission has awarded 695 grants totaling \$126 million, supporting programs in all 24 jurisdictions of the State. These programs have collectively served more than 525,000 Marylanders. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly has approved two recent pieces of legislation, the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act, which promotes health equity, and Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, which increases access to behavioral health services for all children statewide. We appreciate this vote of confidence from the legislature, and we will continue to implement these two new programs to fulfill our statutory responsibilities.

I respectfully request the Finance Committee issue a favorable report on SB 245. Should you have questions on the Commission's activities, please do not hesitate to contact me directly (mark.luckner@maryland.gov / 410.260.7046).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Luckner', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Mark Luckner, Executive Director
Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee
Laura Herrera Scott, MD Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

SB245 - CHRC Sunset Extension - Support - MDH.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 15, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 245 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Commission from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028. The bill also requests that a program evaluation of the Commission take place on or before January 1, 2025.

The Community Health Resources Commission was created by legislation in 2005 to support and award grants to community health resources in Maryland. Its mission has expanded to oversee Health Equity Resource Communities in Maryland as well as oversee the award of dollars related to behavioral health services in schools through the Consortium of Coordinated Community Supports, among other important duties.

The Department supports the extension of the Commission for three years and also recommends a program evaluation, given its critical role in Maryland's health care delivery.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

2023 MDAC SB 245 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



10015 Old Columbia Road, Suite B-215
Columbia, Maryland 21046
www.mdac.us

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Hearing Date: January 17, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition strongly supports *Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation*. The Commission’s mission is to support access to care in underserved communities through community health centers.

MDAC applauds the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor for their commitment to dental coverage for the underserved. In the past five years, Maryland has incrementally expanded Medicaid coverage of adult dental services. Last year, we saw the full implementation of dental coverage for all adults in Maryland with Medicaid. In just the first year of the program, over 175,000 adults, nearly 20% of adult Medicaid enrollees, obtained dental care. For some of those individuals, it was the first time they had received dental services in years.

The Commission has been an important partner in Maryland’s progress in expanding access to dental care. The Commission has consistently prioritized access to dental services in awarding funding, allowing the expansion of dental services at federal qualified health centers, community health centers, and school-based health centers.

We ask for a favorable report so that the Commission can continue to support Maryland’s efforts to ensure all individuals can access dental, somatic, and behavioral health care in their communities. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders

2024 MASHC SB 245 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Hearing Date: January 17, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care supports *Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation*. The Commission’s statutory mission is to support safety net providers such as school-based health centers. Over its 23-year history, the Commission has been instrumental in:

- Providing funding to establish and expand school-based health centers across Maryland;
- Supporting the integration of school-based health centers into health system initiatives by staffing the Commission to Advance School-Based Health Centers. The Commission has consistently gone above and beyond its role to elevate the importance of school-based health center policy. The Commission’s efforts have been instrumental in supporting the modernization of the State’s school-based health center policies; and
- Providing the administrative and policy support for important initiatives, such as the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports and the Pathways to Health Equity Resource Communities.

We strongly support the continuation of the Commission’s work and ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

2024 MCHS SB 245 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill:	SB 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation
Hearing Date:	January 17, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) strongly supports *Senate Bill 245 – Maryland Community Health Resources Commission – Sunset Extension*. The bill extends the sunset date of the Commission, and thus, it preserves its ability to continue to support the community health center community.

MCHS was involved in the creation of the Commission twenty-three years ago when the Maryland General Assembly enacted the legislation creating the Commission. Since its inception, the Commission has played a critical role in building and strengthening the network of federally qualified health centers, school-based health centers, outpatient mental health centers, and other community-based providers. The Commission’s work has been essential in ensuring that underserved communities can access a range of somatic, behavioral health, and oral health care.

The Commission has been a true partner of the safety net provider community in supporting us in navigating systemic challenges in building and sustaining a system of care for the underserved. We ask for a favorable report to allow the Commission to continue its important work. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

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Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

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Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

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