



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.