



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 887 – Maryland Department of Health – Health Commissions and Maryland Insurance Administration - Study

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 887 - Maryland Department of Health – Health Commissions and Maryland Insurance Administration - Study. This bill requires the Department to contract with an independent consultant to study the duties of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Maryland Health Care Commission, the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, and the Maryland Insurance Administration. In conducting the study required under the bill, the contractor must examine overlap and efficiency of duties, and recommend any changes in administrative structures of the commissions and the Maryland Insurance Administration. The Department must report on the findings of the study on or before January 1, 2026.

The Department supports this important legislation. Health care is an ever-evolving field, and an independent examination of the regulatory roles of these agencies will help to inform how best to ensure efficient, effective health care regulation in the future while increasing transparency and accountability for the people and communities we serve. The Department also believes that the time is right for this analysis, given the State's upcoming application for the Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. As Maryland's Total Cost of Care model evolves, we believe an independent examination of our current regulatory structure is prudent.

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.

Sincerely,

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

Secretary