



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 767 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Adult and Pediatric Dental Services - Reimbursement Rates

Hearing Date: February 14, 2024

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 767 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Adult and Pediatric Dental Services – Reimbursement Rates* with amendments. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to evaluate the cost of aligning Medicaid rates with 60% of commercial insurance rates. The bill also requires the Department to implement rate increases.

MCHS is a network of seven federally qualified health centers with 55 sites across the Maryland. We support continued dental rate increases in the Maryland Medicaid Program. We were appreciative of dental rate increases worth \$19 million and \$20 million in fiscal 2022 and 2023 respectively. This critical infusion of fund will help build dental provider participation in Medicaid.

We support studying the investment needed to index Medicaid rates to 60% of commercial rates. We would also support regular increases. We do have some hesitation about mandating annual rate increases, as it could conflict with another one of our goals which is expanding Medicaid coverage to include dentures. Therefore, we would like to work with the Committee in balancing the goals of rate increases and expansion to new services, including dentures. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.