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### **HB 887 Study of HSCRC, MHCC, and MIA Duties Testimony of Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk**

February 21, 2024

Madam Vice Chair and esteemed Health and Government Operations Committee members, I am honored to present House Bill 887.

HB 887 will require the Maryland Department of Health to hire an independent consultant to conduct a study on the:

- Health Services Cost Review Commission
- Maryland Health Care Commission
- Maryland Community Health Resources Commission
- Maryland Insurance Administration

The Maryland Department of Health, along with the health commissions and insurance administration, need this assistance to better their operations. Public health is a complex issue that always has many moving parts. We need to have a better understanding of how our commissions are handling our public health and help streamlining these processes. From reorganizing responsibilities to identifying overlapping work, recommendations on how to raise the operating efficiencies will be the best means to see improved public health.

We cannot turn a blind eye to our health agencies. This bill is our opportunity to support public health and the commissions that oversee it. It would be wasteful, in money and time, if we allow outdated and overlapping work to continue.

This study will examine the overlap of the statutory and regulatory duties between these agencies. In addition to reviewing whether these agencies operate in accordance with the

Maryland Total Cost of Care model and the State's participation in the Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development model. By January 1, 2026, a report of this research will be submitted to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. This report will analyze the findings to recommend any changes that would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of these commissions.

HB 887 is a very low-cost bill. The funds will only go towards hiring the independent consultant to conduct this research. It is a very smart investment of our funds, which will allow the money we provide to these commissions later on to be used effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 887, and I respectfully request your support.