

March 21, 2025

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

**RE: House Bill 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage
Protection Commission – Established – Letter of Support As
Amended**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) requests that the Committee favorably report House Bill (HB) 718, “Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission – Established,” as amended. HB 718 would establish the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission with the goal of protecting equitable access to affordable, high-quality health care for all Maryland residents.

The Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission would evaluate changes that may occur at the federal level to the Affordable Care Act, Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, Medicaid, or Medicare programs. Alterations to these programs could have significant consequences for our state, including reduced access to health coverage and behavioral health care for vulnerable populations such as children, seniors and low-income individuals who rely on these programs for essential care. Local and state-level policy recommendations from the work of the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission would empower Maryland to proactively address potential disruptions in care, and reduce the risk of negative financial or health impacts for our residents. Maryland has long been a leader in health care innovation, and this bill represents a responsible step toward protecting public health.

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD
Vice-Chairman

Ricardo R. Johnson

Maulik Joshi, DrPH

Adam Kane, Esq

Nicki McCann, JD

Farzaneh Sabi, MD

Jonathan Kromm, PhD *****
Executive Director

William Henderson
Director
Medical Economics & Data Analytics

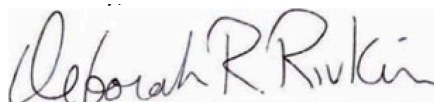
Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity

HSCRC urges a favorable report on HB 718 to ensure that Maryland continues to provide its residents with stable and affordable access to health care. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If you have any questions or if we may provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Kromm, Executive Director, at jon.kromm@maryland.gov or Deborah Rivkin, Director of Government Affairs, at deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. Rivkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Rivkin
Director, Government Affairs

Amendment 1:

On page 2, line 28, strike “and”

On page 2, after line 28, insert

(7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH SERVICE COST REVIEW COMMISSION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE; AND