![MCHS logo]

Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number:	**Senate Bill 776 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care Systems - Establishment**
Committee:	**House Health and Government Operations Committee**
Hearing Date:	**February 28, 2025**
Position:	**Support with Amendment**

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) strongly supports *Senate Bill 776 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions in the State Health Care Systems - Establishment*. Under existing law, carriers must report on volume of adverse decisions. The Workgroup would study potential modifications to reporting requirements to provide more information on the recent spike in adverse decisions.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral, and dental care to underserved communities throughout Maryland. Our health centers have been severely impacted by the growth in adverse decisions from private insurers and managed care organizations. The number of adverse decisions is beginning to compromise our health centers' ability to meet the health needs of their patients and communities.

We strongly support this bill, as it will provide needed information about the reasons behind the growth in adverse decisions. This information will support ongoing work by regulators, insurers and MCOs, and providers to understand how to address the issue.

We request an amendment to add a federally qualified health center to the Workgroup, as we provide an important and unique perspective on coverage issues in underserved communities. Since our health centers provide such a broad range of services, they have valuable data on the impact of adverse decisions on somatic, behavioral health, and dental care.

Here is our requested amendment:

On page 2 after line 18, add:

"*one representative of a federally qualified health center*"

We ask for a favorable with amendment report. If we can answer any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.