

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
Counties' Senate Delegation



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Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable

Senate Bill 94: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Measured Blood Pressure
Monitoring

January 23, 2025

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and esteemed members of the Finance Committee:

I am Senator Arthur Ellis, representing District 28, and I am writing to express my support on Senate Bill 94, which mandates that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program provide coverage for self-measured blood pressure monitoring for specialty populations. This legislation represents an important step forward in improving hypertension management and reducing health disparities in our state. I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Hypertension remains a leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and other significant health challenges. For many residents, especially those within underserved communities, this condition goes undiagnosed and untreated, leading to severe and often preventable health complications. By providing validated home blood pressure monitors to eligible Medicaid recipients, this bill empowers patients to take a proactive role in managing their health. The inclusion of reimbursement for healthcare providers and support for patient education ensures that recipients can effectively utilize this technology to improve outcomes. Moreover, Senate Bill 94 prioritizes equity by targeting populations most at risk, including pregnant and postpartum individuals and those managing chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. This focus aligns with Maryland's commitment to reducing health disparities and improving the quality of care for vulnerable residents. The bill also recognizes the importance of education and collaboration by mandating an educational campaign to ensure that both recipients and providers understand the benefits and proper use of self-measured blood pressure monitoring. This initiative will help bridge knowledge gaps and support the broader goals of improving health

literacy and patient engagement. To ensure transparency and accountability, this bill would require annual reports detailing program utilization, health outcomes and cost savings. This data-driven approach enables ongoing evaluation and improvement. I am confident that the implementation of Senate Bill 94 will lead to significant improvements in health outcomes for Marylanders, while also contributing to long-term positive healthcare outcomes through better prevention and management of hypertension.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 94 to support healthier outcomes for Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

Arthur Ellis