



House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 20, 2025

House Bill 718 – *Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission – Established*
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC supports with amendment House Bill 718.

House Bill 718 establishes the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission. The Commission is charged with monitoring and assessing the impact of potential and actual federal changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, the Maryland Children’s Health Program, Medicare, and the Maryland All-Payer Model and provide recommendations for State and local action to protect Maryland residents’ access to affordable health coverage.

MACHC strongly supports the creation of this Commission and its charges. Potential and actual federal changes clearly put Maryland’s most vulnerable populations at risk for access to affordable health care coverage that ensures they can receive all preventative and medically necessary health care services. FQHCs serve Maryland’s medically underserved and uninsured residents and are clearly aware of the risks posed by potential federal actions. Federal actions could impact the viability of FQHCs and their ability to serve Maryland residents most in need of comprehensive health care services, thereby further exacerbating challenges to access health care coverage and health care services. Because of FQHCs’ role in providing care to Maryland’s underserved and uninsured residents as well as residents enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Program and commercial insurance, MACHC would request House Bill 718 be amended to add a representative of a FQHC to the membership of the Commission. With its noted amendment, MACHC requests a favorable report.

For more information call:

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