



February 12, 2025

The Honorable Josaline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk 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.” HB 718 would establish the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission with the goal of protecting 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 ACA, Medicaid, or Medicare programs. Alterations to these programs could have significant consequences for our state, including reduced access to health coverage 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.

**Amendment to add the HSCRC**

In addition to the federal programs identified above, HB 718 requires the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission to assess and make recommendations for the Maryland All-Payer Model. The HSCRC has a key role in the Model as the independent state agency that regulates hospital rates and supports Model implementation. Given this role, we believe that the HSCRC could provide vital input, insight and guidance to the work of the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission. We respectfully request an amendment to add the Executive Director of the HSCRC or the Executive Director’s designee to the listed membership of the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Commission.

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

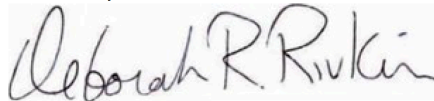
Allan Pack  
Director  
Population-Based Methodologies

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](mailto:jon.kromm@maryland.gov) or Deborah Rivkin, Director of Government Affairs, at [deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov](mailto:deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. Rivkin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Deborah Rivkin  
Director, Government Affairs

**Attached: Amendment**

**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**