



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill (HB) 718 - Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission
- Established - Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 718 - Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission - Established.

As drafted, HB 718 establishes the Maryland Insurance Coverage Protection Commission (the Commission) to monitor and assess the impact of current and potential federal changes to key health care programs, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), Medicare, and the All-Payer Model, and provide recommendations for state and local action to protect access to affordable health coverage for Maryland residents. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31 each year through 2028.

The Department is committed to protecting the health and well-being of Marylanders and supports the goal of HB 718 to ensure continued access to affordable, high-quality health care. The Department is also dedicated to participating in the Commission's workgroup as well as contributing to the mission outlined in the bill.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary