



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission - Established
Hearing Date:	February 20, 2025
Position:	Support with Amendment

The Maryland Community Health System strongly supports *House Bill 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission*. The bill establishes a Commission to make recommendations on how Maryland can maintain coverage programs in anticipation of federal changes.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities across Maryland. We serve all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status. We are proud to have been partners in Maryland's implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Our collective efforts have resulting in Maryland's rate of uninsurance dropping to 6%. Now, we are faced with profound changes in the federal landscape, including restructuring the financing of Medicaid. We are very concerned about the impact on every Marylander.

We wanted to raise a potential amendment for the Committee's consideration. There are numerous federal public health grant programs that support access to healthcare services, e.g. breast and cervical cancer screenings. To the extent there are changes to public health grants on the federal level, the Commission could consider the impact on Maryland:

Proposed Amendment:

On page 4, insert "public health grant programs" after "Medicare" in lines 3, 6, 13, 17, 21, and 26.

We ask for a favorable report. The Maryland Health Insurance Protection Commission will bring together stakeholders from across Maryland to save coverage in our state. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.