



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission - Established

Date: February 20, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission - Established*. This bill establishes the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission to monitor and assess the impact of potential and actual federal changes to health care programs and to provide recommendations for State and local action to protect the access of residents of the State to affordable health coverage.

Meaningful health care coverage is critical to living a productive, secure and healthy life. Enrollment in coverage supports the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Studies confirm that coverage improves access to care; supports positive health outcomes, including an individual's sense of their own health and well-being; incentivizes appropriate use of health care resources; and reduces financial strain on individuals, families and communities.ⁱ This bill will ensure that regardless of federal action, Marylanders will continue to have access to high quality health care.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.aha.org/guidesreports/report-importance-health-coverage>