



House Bill 718

Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission - Established

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: February 20, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 718 WITH AMENDMENTS**. As introduced, this bill establishes the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission to monitor and assess the effects of potential and actual federal changes to healthcare programs and provide recommendations for state and local actions to protect residents' access to affordable health coverage.

MACo recognizes the importance of ensuring that Marylanders have access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare coverage, especially amid evolving federal policies. Local governments are directly involved in public health efforts, social services, and local health initiatives that affect residents' access to care. As such, MACo supports the Commission's establishment and its role in analyzing federal developments and proposing state and local responses.

However, given the potential for the Commission's recommendations to affect local health systems and services, MACo requests an amendment to ensure counties have a formal role in this effort. Specifically, MACo recommends the inclusion of a county representative, nominated by MACo, as an appointee to the Commission, if its charge includes developing recommendations that affect local governments. Local input is essential to ensure state-level policy actions align with counties' practical realities and needs.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 718.