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**Senate Bill 99 – Health Insurance Benefit Cards, Prescription Benefit Cards,
and Other Technology - Identification of Regulatory Agency**

OPPOSE

**Senate Finance Committee
January 15, 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 99 – Health Insurance Benefit Cards, Prescription Benefit Cards, and Other Technology - Identification of Regulatory Agency

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA) and our member MCOs are committed to ensuring access to the prescription drugs and devices that our members depend on for their health. While Senate Bill 99 aims to assist pharmacies in identifying the regulatory agency that governs a patient's health insurance plan, the bill also creates additional opportunities for discrimination or denial at the point of service.

By clearly identifying that an individual has health insurance governed by the Maryland Department of Health, the pharmacy is made aware that the card holder is a member of a HealthChoice MCO. Due to differences in reimbursement rates for selected prescription drugs, a pharmacy may use that readily-available information as an opportunity to deny filling a prescription or pursue other discriminatory behavior toward the member. Given existing health disparity challenges that Medicaid recipients face, we respectfully urge the Committee to reject any opportunity for further discrimination.

The MMCOA looks forward to continued collaboration with the State as we work to identify ways improve access to affordable high-quality care for all Medicaid participants.

Please contact Kathleen Loughran, Chair of MMCOA GR Committee, with any questions regarding this testimony at Kathleen.loughran@amerigroup.com.