

# **BCA\_FAV\_SB1080**

Uploaded by: Blendy, Nicholas

Position: FAV



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 1080**

March 11, 2020

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 1080 - State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health  
Emergency - Authority of Governor (COVID-19 Public Health  
Emergency Protection Act of 2020)

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1080.

BCA fully supports all of the measures that this bill will authorize the Governor to take, including prohibiting cost-sharing by carriers for disease testing, ordering the Maryland Department of Health to cover the cost of disease testing for those who would otherwise not be covered by a carrier or another third party, requiring carriers and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to cover the cost of an immunization and any associated costs if the immunization will prevent the disease that the basis of the issuance of the proclamation, and prohibiting retailers from increasing the sale or rental price of any good or service to a price that increases the retailers value of profit by more than 10% for items like food, fuel, and medicine. These measures are critical for the prevention and treatment of a disease like COVID-19.

The citizens of Maryland must be able to seek disease testing and immunization without the fear of any associated cost. In Baltimore City, specifically, 8.2% of citizens under 65 do not have health insurance and 21.8% of the population is in poverty, with both factors acting as barriers to testing and immunization due to added costs and further

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contributing to the spread of COVID-19.<sup>12</sup> For these same reasons, essential supplies must remain affordable to the citizens of Maryland. If prices increase substantially, it will limit the ability of Baltimore City residents to acquire said goods.<sup>3</sup> This could result in greater morbidity and mortality, as well as a decrease in quality of life.<sup>4</sup>

As COVID-19 spreads throughout our communities, the BCA fully supports expanding the state's short-term ability to more comprehensively promote the public health of Maryland residents. The BCA is also looking forward to taking part in the state's response as we believe a collaborative approach will result in better health outcomes.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 1080.

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<sup>1</sup>*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Baltimore City, Maryland.*

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/baltimorecitymaryland>. Accessed 10 Mar. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Coombs, Bertha. "Private Labs Start Testing for Coronavirus, Prompting Concerns about Cost and Insurance Co-Pays." *CNBC*, 6 Mar. 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/06/private-labs-start-testing-for-coronavirus-prompting-cost-concerns.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *Greater Impact: How Disasters Affect People of Low Socioeconomic Status*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, July 2017, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

# CareFirst\_FAV\_SB1080

Uploaded by: Rivkin, Deborah

Position: FAV

**Deborah R. Rivkin**  
Vice President, Government Affairs - Maryland

**CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield**  
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Baltimore, MD 21224-5744  
Tel. 410-528-7054  
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March 11, 2020



The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **SUPPORT - Senate Bill 1080** – “COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020”

Dear Senator Kelley:

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (“CareFirst”) is in strong support of Senate Bill 1080 “COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020.”

CareFirst recently announced actions that we are taking, across our jurisdictions and working with our self-insured accounts, to ensure that our members do not face barriers to care while seeking testing or treatment for COVID-19. We are encouraging our members to seek care in a virtual setting if their primary care provider is not available, such as CareFirst’s 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line or CareFirst Video Visit, to ensure access to health services, avoid potential risks of infection and ease the burden of emergency room personnel.

We stand ready to work with the General Assembly, the Administration, and other stakeholders to continue to provide support for the communities that we serve. We will also continue to share information and updates for our members and communities on our website, [www.carefirst.com](http://www.carefirst.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Rivkin".

Deborah R. Rivkin

Cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

# **Maryland Hospital Association\_FAV\_SB 1080**

Uploaded by: Stallings, Nicole

Position: FAV



Maryland  
Hospital Association

March 11, 2020

To: The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

From: Nicole Stallings, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy  
Maryland Hospital Association

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 1080 - State Government - State of Emergency and  
Catastrophic Health Emergency - Authority of Governor (COVID-19 Public Health Emergency  
Protection Act of 2020)

Dear Chair Kelley:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 61 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1080.

Maryland hospitals are places of health and healing, and, as such, are on the front lines in ensuring people are properly cared for as we see the first reports of the novel coronavirus in our state. Since the world first learned about the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19, Maryland hospitals have worked to ensure our state is prepared during this public health emergency.

Hospitals took swift action to protect patients, communities and staff, while helping lead communication efforts to keep the general public informed. That includes standing up command centers and preparing staff and resources. Hospitals are coordinating daily with state and local agencies to share information about prevention and protection, secure additional protective equipment, and ensure proper triage protocols are in place to limit spread.

MHA is focused on understanding statewide capacity and best practices, convening key stakeholders for decision-making, and supporting the Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Emergency Management, and Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems efforts to create a cohesive approach across Maryland. We're coordinating heavily with the Governor's office and others. We're also working closely with the American Hospital Association and other hospital associations, including in Washington state, which has been hard hit by the virus.

Maryland hospitals were ready to address this public health crisis when it first emerged because preparing for disasters is not new to hospitals. Emergency preparedness training is a year-round activity that is done within each facility, system and region to ensure our hospitals and communities are prepared for all manner of disaster, including this one. Caregivers are engaged in a nonstop cycle of planning, coordination, and training that includes providers, as well as public health officials, local government, and other agencies.

As they have with every public health crisis in our state, hospitals are helping to lead efforts to keep Marylanders safe. SB 1080 will support those efforts and improve public safety amid this outbreak.

For these reasons we urge a *favorable* report.

For more information, please contact:

Nicole Stallings

Nstallings@mhaonline.org



**MIA\_INFO\_SB1080**

Uploaded by: Paddy, Michael

Position: INFO

LARRY HOGAN  
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
Lt. Governor



# Maryland

INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

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**TESTIMONY OF  
THE  
MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MARCH 11, 2020**

**SENATE BILL 1080 – STATE GOVERNMENT - STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CATASTROPHIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCY - AUTHORITY OF GOVERNOR (COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY PROTECTION ACT OF 2020)**

**LETTER OF INFORMATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony for Senate Bill 1080. Senate Bill 1080 authorizes the Governor to take certain actions as a result of the issuance of the March 5, 2020 proclamation declaring a state of emergency as it relates to COVID-19.

As drafted, the Maryland Insurance Administration urges the Committee to adopt a number of clarifying amendments that are needed to narrow the scope of Senate Bill 1080 and clarify that the intent of the bill is only related to COVID-19.

BY: Maryland Insurance Administration

**AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 1080**  
(First Reading)

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

On page 1, after line 16, insert “(3) COVID-19” means, interchangeably and collectively, the coronavirus known as COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV and the SARS-CoV-2 virus”

On page 1, on Line 17, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”

On page 1, on Line 18, strike “(4)” and insert “(5)”

On page 1, on Line 20, strike “(5)” and insert “(6)”

*Rationale: Defines what is known as the coronavirus.*

**AMENDMENT NO. 2**

On page 2, on Line 5, strike “disease” and insert “COVID-19”

On page 2, on Line 7, strike “disease” and insert “COVID-19”

On page 2, Line 10, after "immunization" insert "for COVID-19"

On page 2, Line 17, after "protocols" insert "for COVID-19”

On page 2, Line 20, after "services" insert "for COVID-19"

On page 2, Line 28, after "orders" insert "relating to COVID-19"

*Rationale: This makes clear that the emergency powers are limited to issues relating to COVID-19.*