



**2020 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: HB 409 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Participation of School-Based Health Centers – Regulations

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 409 would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to revise regulations to include school-based health centers that have a written agreement with sponsoring entity that meets the MSDE’s ‘Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards’ so that these Centers may participate in the MD Medical Assistance (MA) Program.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **supports HB 409** because it provides opportunities to expand school-based health centers (SBHCs) in Maryland and will provide students with much needed services.

SBHCs have played a critical role in providing a comprehensive array of health care services to children in Maryland schools for decades. Currently, there are 84 SBHCs located in 12 of the state’s 24 jurisdictions. These SBHCs are health centers, located in a school or on a school campus, that provide onsite comprehensive preventive and primary health care services. Services may also include mental health, oral health, and supportive services. SBHCs are staffed by a range of health care providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, mental health providers, dental providers and other health services providers. A portion of the SBHCs receive funding from MSDE from the general fund allocation of \$2.6M annually. (Harbage Consulting, *Demonstrating the Value of School-Based Health Centers in Maryland: A Roadmap*, December 31, 2018)

As specified in COMAR 10.09.76.03, Medical Care Programs: School-Based Health Centers, Conditions for Participation, SBHCs must have a sponsoring agency, which has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school system to provide funding, staffing, medical oversight, and/or liability insurance, and is responsible for developing and overseeing the SBHC’s policies and quality improvement activities. Sponsoring agencies may be Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Private Medical Groups, University Medical Groups or Managed Care Organizations.

HB 409 expands sponsorship to include other organizations that meet the Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards, last updated July 26, 2019. This expansion will allow Maryland the opportunity to increase SBHC services to more schools and more children across the state. The provision of health services in schools creates an environment where children can be healthier and achieve their educational potential. For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this **letter of support for HB 409**. For more information, please contact **Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director** at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or **410-614-6891**. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*