



Support

House Bill 409 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Participation of School-Based Health Centers – Regulations

School-Based Health Centers – Ombudsmen

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 5, 2020

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 409 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Participation of School-Based Health Centers – Regulations*. This bill would require the Maryland Medicaid Program to revise its regulations for school-based health centers to include sponsoring organizations currently recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education.

School-based health centers are essential to providing a broad range of health care services to children in schools with high concentrations of poverty, and which there is typically a large percentage of students who are Medicaid participants. School-based health centers ensure children have access to needed primary care, behavioral health, and dental services.

Current regulations under Maryland Medicaid require a partnering organization to sponsor each center. Medicaid currently limits sponsoring organizations to local health departments, federally qualified health centers, or general clinics as federally defined. Unlike nurse practitioners who can provide primary care and behavioral health services to children in other settings, Medicaid's list of sponsoring organizations all require a physician to serve as its medical director.

We strongly believe that this existing list creates unnecessary barriers to serving children and youth in underserved communities who oftentimes are without a primary care provider. In addition, the current sponsorship regulations are inconsistent with Maryland's efforts to promote community-based services in partnership with hospitals and health care systems through our Total Cost of Care and Primary Care models.

We ask for a favorable vote. If any additional information would be helpful, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.

The Maryland Nurses Association, a constituent member association of the American Nurses Association (ANA), representing Maryland's professional nurses since 1904

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