



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Erik L. Barron

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 852 – *Health Insurance – Prostate Cancer Screening – Prohibition Cost-Sharing*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we **support** House Bill 852.

Prostate cancer can often be found early by testing for prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels in a blood test or during a digital rectal exam. According to the American Urological Association, prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths for men in the United States, with about 1 in 9 men being diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime.

Recognizing this, Maryland law already requires carriers to provide coverage for the expenses incurred in conducting a medically recognized diagnostic examination which includes a digital rectal exam and a blood test called the prostate-specific antigen test: (1) for men who are between 40 and 75 years of age; (2) when used for the purpose of guiding patient management in monitoring the response to prostate cancer treatment; (3) when used for staging in determining the need for a bone scan in patients with prostate cancer; or (4) when used for male patients who are at high risk for prostate cancer.

However, while these tests are covered, copays and other cost-sharing requirements still apply. Eliminating co-pays and other cost-sharing will hopefully increase utilization, thereby detecting prostate cancer early, which will ultimately reduce medical costs and, more importantly, save lives. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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