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**TESTIMONY OF
THE
MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

MARCH 16, 2020

SENATE BILL 112 – HEALTH INSURANCE - HEALTH INFORMATION - DISCLOSURES BETWEEN CARRIERS

POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding Senate Bill 112. Senate Bill 112 requires an insurance carrier, on the request of an individual, to disclose protected health information (PHI) to another carrier for case management and care coordination. Senate Bill 112 provides that the disclosure is required if both carriers have had a relationship with the individual who is making the PHI request, the PHI relates to the relationship between the individual and the new carrier, the PHI only relates to case management and care coordination records and the individual has provided the appropriate authorization to the carrier. Further, Senate Bill 112 reaffirms that any request for the disclosure of PHI must comply with the federal health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009.

Currently, under HIPAA a carrier is only required to disclose PHI when required by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine compliance, and to the individual who is the subject of the PHI when requested by that individual. A carrier is also permitted to use or disclose PHI under additional circumstances, including for treatment, payment or health care operations, such as case management and care coordination. Under HIPAA, a carrier is currently permitted to disclose PHI to another carrier under the circumstances described in Senate Bill 112, but is not required to do so. A carrier is currently not required to disclose PHI to another carrier even when the individual whose PHI it is, makes the request to transfer the PHI from the original carrier to the new carrier.

By requiring the disclosure of PHI on request of an individual between carriers, in regards to case management and care coordination records, it is expected that this will improve the ability of a carrier to manage an individual's course of care. Additionally, by adding this

language into Maryland state law, the Maryland Insurance Administration has the regulatory authority to take action in the event that a carrier does not comply.

The Maryland Insurance Administration supports Senate Bill 112 and urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 112 a favorable report.