



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 932 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Coverage Acupuncture Services – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of information on Senate Bill (SB) 932 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Coverage – Acupuncture Services. SB 932 would require MDH, subject to budget limitations, to provide coverage of acupuncture services to Medicaid participants by licensed practitioners operating under their scope of practice. The effective date is October 1, 2021.

The MDH currently covers acupuncture services for participants under 21 through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. SB 932 would expand coverage of acupuncture services to adults. Based on an analysis of CareFirst's services, covering acupuncture services would cost \$0.76 per member per month. Assuming approximately 561,133 HealthChoice adults and 103,796 fee-for-service adults ages 21 through 64 do not have access to acupuncture services currently, the annual fiscal impact to cover these services is \$5.1 million TF (\$3.1 million FF; \$2 million GF). From FY22 through FY26, MDH estimates that providing acupuncture services would cost \$30.7 million TF (\$18.2 million FF; \$12.5 million GF).

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov) / (410) 260-3190 or Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs at [heather.shek@maryland.gov](mailto:heather.shek@maryland.gov) or at the same phone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Webster Ye".

Webster Ye  
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy