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Budget and Taxation Committee

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Education, Business and Administration

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March 10, 2021

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 865 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

Chairwoman Kelley & Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 865 to you this afternoon.

Currently, Emergency Service Transporters in Maryland can only be reimbursed if the transport destination for Maryland Medical Assistance Program Recipients is a hospital emergency room. This bill would allow Emergency Service Transporters across the state to be reimbursed for transporting Program recipients to facilities other than emergency rooms exclusively.

In some cases, patients can be treated for their ailments at other facilities, such as an urgent care or a behavioral health center. In fact, an individual may be better treated at a facility that specializes in a specific type of care. This bill would help alleviate some of the pressure placed on hospital emergency rooms and better serves Program recipients by allowing more destination options. In situations where the emergency room is inundated with patients, Emergency Service Transporters are forced to wait with the Program recipient on the campus until a transfer of care can occur. This takes Emergency Service Transporters away from serving additional patients and can be a waste of resources.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 865.

Paul D. Corderman