



To: House Health and Government Operations

RE: House Bill 1375 - Health Information Exchanges - Electronic Health Information - Sharing and Disclosure

Position: Support

Date: March 19, 2021

Our organizations strongly support *House Bill 1375 – Health Information Exchanges – Electronic Health Information – Sharing and Disclosure*. The bill would require the establishment of a “one-stop” website where consumers could opt out of the sharing of their personal health information beyond their rendering provider.

This bill is critical in advancing consumer privacy in the increasingly interconnected world of shared electronic health records. Consumers already have the legal right to opt-out of sharing their health records with practitioners who are not directly providing their care. This means, consumers may choose for only the immediate rendering provider to have access to the record of a particular visit or episode of care. However, very few consumers are able to navigate opt-out provisions of any system used by their provider, such as CRISP or MyChart. This issue is compounded when consumers have multiple providers who use multiple systems.

Under the bill, the Maryland Health Care Commission would facilitate the establishment of a “one-stop” website where consumers could opt-out of sharing their health records across multiple systems. This proposal is the most effective and efficient way for consumers to navigate privacy options for sharing their health records. The bill would not affect the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and all information about controlled dangerous substance prescriptions would continue to be shared.

Protecting consumer privacy is critical in protecting the health of people at risk for discrimination and stigma. When consumers are concerned that their privacy may be compromised by the sharing of records, they may either forego or delay care. These consumers include those seeking the following types of services: reproductive health including treatment of sexually transmitted infections, LGBTQ, PrEP and HIV care, behavioral health, and services to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you for your attention to the issue of privacy of electronic health records. We ask for a favorable report on HB 1375. You may reach our coalition through Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.

Baltimore City Behavioral Health
Directorate

Health Care for the Homeless

Institutes for Behavioral Resources/REACH

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of
Maryland

Maryland Addictions Directors Council

Maryland Association for the Treatment of
Opioid Dependence

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Mental Health Association of Maryland

NARAL ProChoice Maryland

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Maryland

National Association of Social Workers –
Maryland Chapter

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug
Dependence-Maryland

On Our Own of Maryland

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Public Justice Center

Women’s Law Center of Maryland