

**BRIAN E. FROSH**  
*Attorney General*

**ELIZABETH F. HARRIS**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**CAROLYN QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

Writer's Direct Email:  
poconnor@oag.state.md.us



**WILLIAM D. GRUHN**  
*Chief*  
Consumer Protection Division

Writer's Direct Fax No.  
(410) 576-6571

Writer's Direct Dial No.  
(410) 576-6515

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

March 30, 2021

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 741 (COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports Senate Bill 741. We thank the sponsor for amending the bill to strengthen the coverage mandate for COVID-19 tests, including at-home tests, and for adding an express prohibition against cost sharing for tests and related items and services for the administration of tests. The bill no longer requires that private insurance be billed for testing provided by state and local governmental providers, thereby preserving access for all Maryland consumers to testing with no out-of-pocket costs or fear of post-testing billing. As a result of this bill, consumer confusion and financial distress over testing coverage and costs should be greatly reduced.

We also support the express requirement that the bill's testing, contact tracing and vaccination plan be designed to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved and minority communities because supporting such remedial measures is a priority of the Office this session. *See* Attorney General's COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force Final Report.

[https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/A2JC%20Documents1/AG\\_Covid\\_A2J\\_TF\\_Report.pdf](https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/A2JC%20Documents1/AG_Covid_A2J_TF_Report.pdf)

We urge the committee to give Senate Bill 741 a favorable report.

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