



## Maryland Community Health System

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Budget and Taxation Committee</b>
<b>Bill:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 623 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Income of Health Care Workers</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 2, 2022</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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Maryland Community Health System supports *Senate Bill 623 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Income of Health Care Workers*. The bill would provide a \$25,000 subtraction from income for calculating taxes for a two-year-period for certain health care practitioners: 1) primary care providers including ob/gyn, pediatric, and geriatric services; 2) behavioral health; and 3) dental services.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federal qualified health centers providing somatic, behavioral health, and dental services to underserved communities. We have always faced health care worker staffing issues as our health centers are located in areas federally-designated as health professional (workers) workforce shortage areas (HPSA). However, it has become far more difficult to recruit and retain health care providers as we finish the second year of the pandemic. Facing burnout, some health care providers are leaving for jobs that do not involve direct care or leaving the profession altogether.

We support this legislation because it will help us retain our most critical workforce in serving our communities. We need health care practitioners to stay in their professions and continue direct care roles. We ask for a favorable report, and we stand ready to assist the Committee in every way possible in this endeavor. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).