



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 244

Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring

Hearing Date: February 8, 2022

Position: Support

Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 244 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Monitored Blood Pressure*. This bill provides for reimbursement of blood-pressure monitoring equipment and clinical follow-up for individuals with uncontrolled hypertension in the Medicaid program.

Moveable Feast provides medically-tailored meals and nutritional counseling support to individuals with chronic or life-threatening diseases. We support this legislation because it will help many of our clients who have hypertension, often coupled with other serious and chronic conditions. When individuals are able to monitor their blood pressure at home under the guidance of their providers, their blood pressure and overall clinical outcomes improve.ⁱ

Moveable Feast has been a partner in a Maryland Department of Health grant program that provides individuals with self-monitoring blood pressure equipment. Through participation in this program, we saw first-hand how the provision of blood pressure equipment allowed clients to take control over their own health. However, grant programs are time-limited. This legislation would provide permanent support for our clients who could not otherwise afford this equipment.

We urge a favorable report this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ Bryant et al. Impact of Self-Monitoring of Blood Pressure on Processes of Hypertension Care and Long-Term Blood Pressure Control
Journal of the American Heart Association. 2020;9:e016174