

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 253-MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION-
USER FEE ASSESSMENTS**

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON JANUARY 26, 2022

Mr. Vice-Chair and Members:

Senate Bill 253 is before you today at the request of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). This Bill will give the Commission the ability to increase their user fee assessment cap from 16 million to 20 million, a user fee which is assessed on hospitals, nursing homes, insurance payors, and health care practitioners.

The MHCC is responsible for health facility planning and quality reporting for nursing homes, other long-term care settings, hospitals, commercial health plans, as well as for out-patient surgery centers. MHCC is also charged with the

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dissemination of health information technology, including telehealth. In addition to these responsibilities, the MHCC conducts various studies and special projects at the request of the legislature, and passage of this Bill would enable them to continue such projects. This Committee is familiar with MHCC's assessments of health insurance mandates, work on rural health, and the assignment of benefits legislation, among other issues.

Ben Steffen, Executive Director of the MHCC, will now explain the necessity for the increase in the user fee and answer any questions that you might have.

At the conclusion of this hearing I am asking for your strong support for Senate Bill 253.