



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 1082 - Public Health - Consumer Health Information - Hub and Requirements
Hearing Date:	March 31, 2022
Position:	Support

Maryland Community Health System supports *House Bill 1082 – Public Health – Consumer Health Information – Hub and Requirements*. The legislation recognizes the University of Maryland Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub and provides an annual appropriation of \$350,000.

With a designated Health Information Hub, state and local resources will provide for permanent support of efforts to improve the accessibility of consumer information on health care systems. As a network of federally qualified health centers, we support our patients in navigating insurance issues, following treatment protocols, and connecting to speciality care, including behavioral health services.

Maryland has one of the best health care systems, as our payment policies are aligned to promote positive health outcomes rather than higher volume of services. However, these systems add layers of complexity to consumers in understanding how health care practitioners, health insurers, and public health agencies are linked. If we want to transform our system to be truly patient-centered, we need to ensure our communications are accessible and understandable to the consumer. With this legislation, state and local agencies will be able to turn to the Consumer Health Information Hub for support in designing materials ranging from program eligibility applications to health education materials about chronic disease management.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.