



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

*The Maryland State Medical Society*  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 634 – *Health Insurance – Home Test Kits for Sexually Transmitted Diseases – Required Coverage*

---

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 634. Senate Bill 634 requires an insurer to provide coverage for the purchase of an approved home test kit used for the testing of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) if an in-network provider determines the home test kit is medically necessary or appropriate and orders the test kit for an insured or enrollee or if an in-network provider issues a standing order for the test kit for use by an insured or enrollee based on clinical guidelines and the individual health needs of the insured or enrollee. An insurer must also cover the laboratory costs for processing the home test kit.

Recently, through the 2019 STD Surveillance Report, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that annual cases of STDs in the United States have climbed for the sixth consecutive year, hitting racial and ethnic minority groups, gay and bisexual men, and youth the hardest.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the report showed a 30% increase in chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis (the three most commonly reported STDs) between 2015 and 2019, with the sharpest increase in cases of syphilis among newborns (nearly quadrupling). In all three STD categories, Maryland ranks above the United States average – 11<sup>th</sup> for chlamydia; 20<sup>th</sup> for gonorrhea; and 12<sup>th</sup> for primary and secondary syphilis. Preliminary data for 2020 points to these trends continuing, which may be the result of disruptions to STD testing and treatment services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, California became the first state to require insurers to cover at-home tests for STDs. Maryland must also examine and implement new ways to control this rising trend. Senate Bill 634 provides another path for STD testing while still maintaining the provider-patient relationship to ensure necessary treatment if a test is positive. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on Senate Bill 634.

**For more information call:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

---

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2019*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2021