



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 534
Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring
Hearing Date: February 9, 2022
Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 534 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Monitored Blood Pressure*. The bill requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to reimburse for at-home blood pressuring equipment for people with uncontrolled hypertension as well as follow-up services with their provider.

We support this legislation because the clinical evidence is clear. When patients have at-home blood pressure monitoring equipment and counseling by their providers, their blood pressure metrics improve within the same year and continue to improve in the long-term.ⁱ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended this strategy to prevent heart disease and stroke.ⁱⁱ

Under the Total Cost of Care Model, Maryland has structured its health care financing system to incentivize prevention strategies. This legislation aligns with Maryland’s population health approach. If Medicaid reimburses for both equipment and follow-up for self-monitoring of blood pressure, we can reduce the impact of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, and lower hospital admissions for heart disease, stroke, and other acute illnesses.

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

ⁱ 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

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/dhbsp/pubs/guides/best-practices/smbp.htm>