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**Statement on House Bill 765- Maryland Medical Assistance Program
Doula Program**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 16, 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement in regards to House Bill 765- Maryland Medical Assistance Program- Doula Program.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association's (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that serve over 1.5 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program are committed to identifying ways to improve quality and access to care for all Medicaid participants.

As part of the focus on Maternal and Child Health, one of three components of the Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy (SIHIS), the Medicaid Doula program has been in development throughout 2021 and is now in the implementation phase. The MCOs, in close partnership with the Department of Health, have worked to assist in the design and implementation of this benefit for HealthChoice members referred for doula care. Currently, the program is on track for ePrep enrollment of those qualified for providing doula services, as four ePrep enrollment seminars were hosted by the Department in January 2022. February 7, 2022 marked the effective date for Doula coverage and the beginning of Phase 2 Implementation Planning of the program.

For these reasons, this legislation is duplicative of efforts well underway by the State and the MCOs serving the HealthChoice program. This legislation also presents future challenges in codifying provider rates and provider qualifications that may limit the State's ability to make enhancements to the program. We will remain fully engaged as the Doula program continues to be developed and implemented in the way that best serves our members.

The MCOs welcome the opportunity for continued engagement in policy discussions surrounding Maternal Child Health initiatives and look forward to continued collaboration with the State as we work to identify ways to improve access to affordable high-quality care for all Medicaid participants.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.