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Maryland Chapter  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

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

DATE: March 16, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1464 – *Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants – Alterations*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1464.

House Bill 1464 implements two recommendations from the Workgroup on the Maryland Loan Assistance and Repayment Program (MLARP) for Physicians and Physician Assistants, which provides loan repayment aid to eligible physicians and physician assistants (PAs) who work in underserved areas of the State for 2 years. The Workgroup was created by Senate Bill 501 of 2020 and was tasked with examining ways to improve MLARP. The Workgroup issued its Final Report in December of 2021, which included numerous recommendations, some of which related to funding, some that can be implemented without statutory change, and the two recommendations addressed by House Bill 1464.

The first change is making the statute clear that part-time physicians and PAs are eligible for pro-rated loan assistance. The hours spent caring for patients by part-time providers are no less important than those spent by full-time providers, so it is appropriate that part-time providers be made eligible for MLARP.

Second, the bill establishes a permanent Advisory Council which is comprised of the same stakeholders involved in the Workgroup. The Advisory Council's purpose is set forth as well, which includes guiding MLARP so that it maximizes the funds available to the program and remains competitive with other states' loan assistance programs.

MLARP is a powerful tool at the State's disposal to ensure patient access to physicians in every part of Maryland, and we ask that the Committee adopt House Bill 1464 to implement these needed changes.

**For more information call:**

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