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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 253-MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION-
USER FEE ASSESSMENTS
BEFORE THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

ON MARCH 30, 2022

Madam Chair and Members:

Senate Bill 253 is before you today at the request of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). This Bill will give the Commission the ability to increase their user fee assessment cap from 16 million to 20 million, a user fee which is assessed on hospitals, nursing homes, insurance payors, and health care practitioners.

The MHCC is responsible for health facility planning and quality reporting for nursing homes, other long-term care settings, hospitals, commercial health plans, as well as for out-patient surgery centers. MHCC is also charged with the

dissemination of health information technology, including telehealth. In addition to these responsibilities, the MHCC conducts various studies and special projects at the request of the legislature, and passage of this Bill would enable them to continue such projects. This Committee is familiar with MHCC's assessments of health insurance mandates, work on rural health, and the assignment of benefits legislation, among other issues. MHCC's increased obligations and mandated work extended the existing assessment cap to its ceiling in 2022 and their work in 2023 will exceed the assessment cap.

An increase in the assessment cap is justified for the reasons mentioned. I therefore ask for a favorable report for SB 253, which is the cross-file of HB 353.