



TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1219 – *Pharmacists – Status as Health Care Providers and Reimbursement*

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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC **supports** House Bill 1219.

House Bill 1219 seeks to secure payment parity with other health care providers for services that pharmacists are authorized to provide within their scope of practice. For many of Maryland's FQHCs, pharmacists play an integral role in the provision of health care services within their scope of practice. Providing reimbursement parity for those services which pharmacists are authorized to provide will enhance the ability of FQHCs to cost-effectively provide care to Maryland's medically under-served communities. It is MACHC's understanding that the intent of this legislation is not to alter the scope of practice for pharmacists. To that end, MACHC has no objection to the adoption of clarifying amendments to maintain pharmacists' current scope of practice. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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