

**HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
HB 382 – Maryland Department of Health and Prescription Drug Affordability
Board - Managed Care Organizations and Prescription Drug Claims - Study**

**Senate Finance Committee
March 29, 2023**



Health Care for the Homeless supports HB 382, which, as amended, would study the payment structure to pharmacies of Managed Care Organization (MCO) claims. MCO claims are reimbursed to pharmacies at levels underneath the pharmacy's acquisition cost. States surrounding Maryland have shown that when MCO claims are reimbursed at the same levels as Medicaid Fee for Service, the system saves money. The proposed study will get factual data on whether the proposed payment model for pharmacy MCO claims will save money or cost money to the State, and how much. As this bill would not reimburse pharmacies at a higher rate, the fiscal note from the original bill is dramatically reduced.

At Health Care for the Homeless, we see one of the most vulnerable populations – individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We serve one of the hardest to reach populations because people experiencing homelessness face particular obstacles to health care to their counterparts with stable housing. As such, best client care is to ensure that the provision of health is made as accessible as possible for our clients. For this reason, Health Care for the Homeless' largest clinic has a pharmacy on-site to ensure that clients can easily access and pick up their prescriptions. The sustainability of our pharmacy partner is not only critical to ensuring the most accessible health care to our clients, but is also critical to our agency's sustainability, particularly due to 340B revenue.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 382.

Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We work to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable individuals and families by providing quality, integrated health care and promoting access to affordable housing and sustainable incomes through direct service, advocacy, and community engagement. We deliver integrated medical care, mental health services, state-certified addiction treatment, dental care, social services, and housing support services for over 10,000 Marylanders annually at sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. For more information, visit www.hchmd.org.