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February 22, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Senate Bill 75 – Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Treatment of Alopecia
Areata – Coverage Requirements**

Dear Chairman Griffith,

The League of Life and Health Insurers of Maryland, Inc. respectfully **opposes** *Senate Bill 75 – Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Treatment of Alopecia Areata – Coverage Requirements* and urges the committee to give the bill an unfavorable report.

Senate Bill 75 requires insurers, non-profit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations (collectively known as carriers) to provide coverage for a hair prosthesis for hair loss resulting from alopecia areata.

But, with Senate Bill 75, and as a result it establishes a new mandated benefit. Under the ACA, each state must pay, for every health plan purchased through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the additional premium associated with any state-mandated benefit beyond the federally mandated essential health benefits. This means, should the Commissioner include the mandate in the State benchmark plan, the State would be required to defray the cost of the benefits to the extent it applies to the individual and small group market ACA plans.

The League opposes any additional mandated benefits to Maryland's law. Mandated benefits add cost to health insurance policies in our state and limit the ability of insurers to design benefits to best meet the needs of enrollees. Given the potential impact to health insurance costs in the State, Maryland law includes a statutory framework for review and evaluation of proposed mandated benefits by the Maryland Health Care Commission under § 15-1501 of the Insurance Article. The law requires the assessment of a proposed mandate for the social, medical and financial impact of the proposed mandate and equips the General Assembly with such information as the extent to which the service is generally utilized by a significant portion of the population; the extent to which the insurance coverage is already generally available; if

coverage is not generally available, the extent to which the lack of coverage results in individuals avoiding necessary health care treatments; if coverage is not generally available, the extent to which the lack of coverage results in unreasonable financial hardship; and the level of public demand for the service. Before adopting this or any other mandated health benefit, we urge the Committee first request an evaluation of the proposed benefit to facilitate an informed decision.

For these reasons, the League urges the committee to give Senate Bill 75 an unfavorable report.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Celentano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Celentano
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee