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House Bill 214 – Commission on Public Health- Establishment

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SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

**House Health and Government Operations Committee
January 26, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 214- Commission on Public Health- Establishment. We respectfully ask for an amendment to the bill to include a representative of the Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA) serve on the Commission on Public Health, established by the bill's provisions.

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association's (MMCOA) nine member Medicaid MCOs that serve over 1.5 million Marylanders through the Medicaid HealthChoice program support efforts aimed at preventing and controlling communicable and chronic disease, improving maternal and child health outcomes, strengthening health equity initiatives, improving overall public health outcomes, and increasing linkage to clinical care for the population we serve. We support the establishment and the goals of the Commission on Public Health as outlined in House Bill 214.

Maryland's MCOs play a significant and meaningful role in the lives of our members who often experience negative physical and behavioral health conditions stemming from certain health care inequities. Given the experience and knowledge that MCOs have in the public health sector, including the Medicaid Program, we respectfully ask that House Bill 214 be amended to include a representative of MMCOA to serve as a member of the Commission on Public Health.

Maryland's HealthChoice members- as well as all Marylanders- will benefit from the much-needed work of the Commission, and the MCOs welcome the opportunity to be involved in this effort to improve the health and well-being of those we serve.

Please contact Jennifer Briemann, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jbriemann@marylandmco.org.