



**Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)**

To the House Health and Government Operation Committee

Chair: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Melony Griffith

March 17, 2023

**House Bill 497/Senate Bill 498: Rural Health Collaborative Pilot Repeal and Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition Funding**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of House Bill 497/Senate Bill 498: Rural Health Collaborative Pilot Repeal and Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition Funding.

MRHA represents those living in rural designated counties including those living in Caroline County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County, and Talbot County. We fully endorse and support funding for the Mid-Shore Health Improvement Coalition for their continuation of services that address pressing healthcare issues like Diabetes/Healthy Living, Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health, Tobacco/Cancer, Telehealth, Health Literacy, and Provider Recruitment and Retention. This funding is essential for them to carry out their scope of work. We urge a favorable report.

*Sincerely,*

*Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director*

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