

Dennis R. Schrader  
9433 Sunfall Court  
Columbia, MD 21046-2057  
[dschrader@comcast.net](mailto:dschrader@comcast.net)  
443-472-5871

Senate Bill 965 testimony, favorable with amendments

Over the past decade, MDH had developed a capability to create specialized public health data by using the state's data utility housed at CRISP (Chesapeake Region Information System for our Patients.) It is the state-designated Health Information Exchange (HIE), by the Maryland Health Care Commission. The data utility has a board created originally by a coalition of hospitals in 2006. MDH had 2 board members during my tenure from Public Health and Medicaid. This was supported by funding that was created in 2009 and the Obama Administration investments in technology from the federal government. We continued this practice during the Hogan Administration by using Medicaid grants.

We started using CRISP as a public health utility for a platform to support the opioid crisis mitigation, particularly for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) that was required by the legislature. During Covid, CRISP became a critical tool in monitoring cases and creating reports for public health action.

CRISP can readily support public health data projects cost effectively as Senate Bill 965 envisions.

Dennis R. Schrader  
Former Maryland Secretary of Health