



Senate Finance Committee

March 11, 2025

Senate Bill 1005 – *Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program – Acquisition of Land*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC supports Senate Bill 1005.

Senate Bill 1005 enhances the flexibility of the Federally Qualified Health Centers Capital Grant Program to assist in meeting the health care needs of medically underserved communities. If enacted, the State will be authorized to provide grants to counties, municipal corporations, and nonprofit corporations for the acquisition of land for the construction or use of a FQHC. This additional flexibility will enable FQHCs and local jurisdictions to purchase land to build a new facility, which may be necessary if there is no existing buildings that could be utilized to open or expand a clinic.

Expanding the program to allow for the acquisition of land enhances the flexibility of the grant program but does not increase funding, and therefore there are no fiscal implications. However, expanding the program as proposed will enhance the ability of the State, local jurisdictions, and FQHCs to provide health care services to Maryland's most disadvantaged populations. A favorable report is requested on Senate Bill 1005.

For more information call:

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