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Senate Finance Committee
February 26, 2025
Senate Bill 641 – *Health Insurance – Required Coverage – Hearing Aids*
POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 641, which mandates health insurers cover hearing aids for children and adults if they are prescribed, fitted, and dispensed by a licensed hearing aid dispenser. Maryland law only requires coverage if the hearing aids are prescribed, fitted, and dispensed by a licensed audiologist.

MedChi opposes this for three reasons. First, it is unclear what problem this bill is trying to solve, given that we are unaware of an issue with patients obtaining hearing aids. Second, the Maryland Health Care Commission has not yet evaluated this mandated benefit for the societal, medical, and fiscal costs. Without a clear need for this expansion, then this legislation should first be assessed by the Commission. Third, while this bill is a coverage bill, it is also expanding the scope of licensed hearing aid dispensers since they cannot prescribe. MedChi is against licensed hearing aid dispensers from prescribing.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable vote.

For more information call:

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