

SB1005_FAV_MACHC_FQHCs Grant Program - Acquisition

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



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:

Christine K. Krone

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SB1005 Testimony GBMS.pdf

Uploaded by: Jarryd Hawkins

Position: FAV



March 11th, 2025

Senate Bill 1005 Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land
Position: Support

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS), I am pleased to offer their strong support for Senate Bill 1005, which seeks to amend the Maryland Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program to allow the use of capital funds for land acquisition purposes.

Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS) is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) that operates in multiple locations in Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, and Charles County, providing comprehensive healthcare services to underserved communities. As a vital part of Maryland’s healthcare safety net, GBMS serves over 63,000 patients annually statewide, including individuals from low-income households, uninsured or underinsured populations, and those who experience significant barriers to accessing care.

Low-Income residents in/around Capitol Heights

Target Population Zip Code	City	Number of Low Income Residents	Number Served by any Health Center	Number Served at Greater Baden	Unmet Need
20706	Lanham	10,201	2,557	179	7,644
20735	Clinton	3,881	1,570	1,231	2,311
20743	Capital Heights	10,947	4,293	2,193	6,654
20744	Fort Washington	7,496	2,038	1,400	5,458
20745	Oxon Hill	7,093	2,574	1,694	4,519
20746	Suitland	7,044	2,004	1,189	5,040
20747	District Heights	11,522	2,820	1,836	8,702
20748	Temple Hills	8,030	2,203	1,286	5,827
20772	Upper Marlboro	4,484	1,164	658	3,320
20774	Upper Marlboro	4,717	1,009	303	3,708
20784	Hyattsville	7,579	2,757	186	4,822
20785	Hyattsville	12,228	2,458	516	9,770
TOTAL		95,222	27,447	12,671	67,775

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration. 2023. “UDS Mapper” (Web Application).
<http://www.udsmapper.org>. Accessed April, 2023.

GBMS through its location in Capitol Heights, Maryland serves approximately 12,000 Maryland residents within that region. Even with GBMS’ operations this region experiences a persistent and expansive unmet healthcare need among its residents. This has prompted Greater Baden Medical services to build a new location in Capitol Heights that will drastically expand service capacity. This new location will allow GBMS to hire an additional 20 healthcare clinicians and serve 30,000 more patients. All while keeping the current Capitol Heights location open.

GBMS is a nonprofit which relies on public funding, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and donations to operate and grow to meet healthcare needs. Additionally, FQHCs are mandated by the Federal government to serve patients who are uninsured and do not have the means to pay for healthcare. When FQHCs like GBMS face seek to undergo capital projects, the process to secure adequate financing can be onerous and cost prohibitive. As the law is currently written, the Federally Qualified Health Center Grant fund does not allow for FQHC's to use this funding for land acquisition.

Senate Bill 1005 will provide much-needed flexibility and certainty for FQHCs like GBMS to access public funds for land acquisition, enabling them to secure property in areas where they can build new health centers. Specifically, for GBMS Senate Bill 1005 enactment will maintain the financial viability for their proposed Capitol Heights facility.

I humbly urge the Finance Committee to give this bill a favorable report and support its passage, as it will make a significant difference in FQHC's ability to provide high quality healthcare to Maryland's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jarryd Hawkins
Lobbyist
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SB1005-FIN_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 1005

Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 11, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 1005. This bill strengthens the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Grant Program by authorizing the Board of Public Works to provide grants to counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations for the acquisition of land for the construction or use of FQHCs.

FQHCs play a critical role in Maryland's healthcare system, delivering comprehensive primary care services to underserved communities, regardless of the residents' ability to pay. By addressing access barriers, these centers provide a lifeline for residents in areas with limited healthcare options and ensure that essential medical care is available to all Marylanders.

SB 1005 may make the difference in turning otherwise untenable projects into a supportable reality. This bill expands the scope of the grant program to include funding for land acquisition, an essential step in developing and expanding FQHCs. This added flexibility will benefit counties that partner closely with FQHCs to meet local healthcare needs by allowing them to address critical infrastructure needs and support new projects to better serve their residents.

MACo appreciates that this legislation reflects a collaborative approach to strengthening public health infrastructure, benefiting counties and communities statewide. By ensuring that the necessary resources are available for FQHC development, SB 1005 will advance Maryland's commitment to equitable and accessible healthcare.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 1005.

2025 MCHS SB 1005 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Paddy

Position: FAV



Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number: Senate Bill 1005 – Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Hearing Date: March 11, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports Senate Bill 1005 - *Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program - Acquisition of Land*. The bill would allow the Federally Qualified Health Centers Capital Grant Program to make grants to counties, municipal corporations, and nonprofit corporations for the acquisition of land for the construction or use of a federally qualified health center.

The Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers (FQHC) located across Maryland. FQHCs are vital for communities lacking access to healthcare. They offer primary care, dental services, and mental health counseling. These centers focus on low-income and marginalized populations, ensuring equitable access to health services. In Maryland, FQHCs improve lives through comprehensive care and preventive services. Currently, the FQHC Grant Program which is under the Department of Health, only provides capital grants to assist in the conversion, acquisition, design, construction, renovation, and equipping of Federally Qualified Health Center facilities.

The bill would provide more flexibility in the FQHC Grant Program. The Maryland Department of Health could consider funding land acquisition if in the best interests of the community. The additional flexibility is particularly important in rural communities where there may be fewer options for existing buildings. An FQHC might have to purchase land to build a new clinic site.

We request a favorable report on the bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.

SB1005_SponsorTestimony

Uploaded by: Senator Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON
Legislative District 24
Prince George's County

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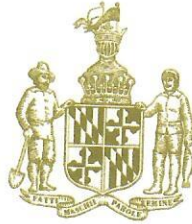
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY
SB1005
SENATOR JOANNE C. BENSON
FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS GRANT
PROGRAM-ACQUISITION OF LAND

Good afternoon, Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice-Chair Antoino Hayes, and Esteemed Committee Members.

I come before you today to express my unwavering support for Senate Bill 1005. This critical legislation authorizes the Board of Public Works, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Health, to make grants under the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Grant Program for the acquisition of land for the construction or use of FQHCs.

Federally Qualified Health Centers are essential to the well-being of our most underserved populations. They provide comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services to individuals and families who might otherwise go without essential medical care. By expanding the scope of the FQHC Grant Program to include the acquisition of land, SB1005 will make a transformative impact on the healthcare landscape of our state.

The urgency of this legislation cannot be overstated:

- 1. Critical Access to Healthcare:** The expansion of FQHCs will ensure that more Maryland residents, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare services. This is not merely a healthcare issue—it's a fundamental matter of equity and justice.
- 2. Economic Revitalization:** The establishment of new health centers will create jobs, stimulate local economies, and breathe new life into communities. The economic upliftment will benefit businesses and residents alike, fostering a cycle of growth and prosperity.
- 3. Addressing Health Disparities:** By promoting health equity, SB 1005 will help bridge the gap in healthcare access for marginalized and underserved communities. It is our moral obligation to ensure that every resident has access to the healthcare they need and deserve.

4. **Preventive Care and Cost Savings:** FQHCs focus on preventive care and managing chronic diseases, which significantly improves health outcomes and reduces long-term healthcare costs. Expanding FQHCs will create a healthier and more resilient population.

This legislation is not just a policy change; it is a bold and necessary investment in the health and well-being of our communities. It represents an opportunity to address critical gaps in our healthcare system and to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of equity, justice, and human dignity.

In conclusion, I passionately urge a favorable vote for SB 1005 from the members of the Finance Committee. This legislation is a profound commitment to building a healthier, more equitable future for all Maryland residents.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.