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The Maryland State Medical Society  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

House Health and Government Operations Committee  
February 6, 2025

House Bill 666 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Calcium Score Testing*

**POSTION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 666. This bill requires the Medicaid program and carriers in the fully insured private market to provide coverage for calcium score testing for individuals with at least three of the following risk factors – diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or a family history of premature coronary artery disease.<sup>1</sup>

Calcium score testing aligns with Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model by promoting early detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease before the onset of symptoms, which is crucial for better health outcomes and cost savings over time. The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association recognize the benefits of calcium score testing and incorporate the test in their joint guidelines for preventing cardiovascular disease. By identifying at-risk patients early, physicians can work with patients to implement preventive measures like lifestyle changes, medication, and monitoring, therefore reducing the need for expensive emergency care and hospitalizations and lowering overall healthcare costs. The report by the Maryland Health Care Commission showed minimal impact on premiums – for the fully insured market – \$.009 to \$.147 per member per year (PMPY); \$.019 to \$.494 PMPY for the State Health Plan; and \$.002 to \$.025 PMPY to Medicaid. More importantly, the Commission noted that the cost would be offset by savings from avoided ischemic cardiac events due to increased statin therapy.

While we fully support House Bill 666, we also believe that additional consideration should be given to expanding the risk factors to include those with a history of smoking and autoimmune disease. This expansion could significantly enhance the bill's impact on public health.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
J. Steven Wise  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Maryland Department of Health’s testimony on House Bill 1337 from the 2024 Session, calcium scoring is a covered service for all participants under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.