



Maryland Community Health System

Bill Number: House Bill 553 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self–Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 553 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self–Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring*. The bill requires Maryland Medicaid to reimburse for the cost of the equipment as well as the time of the clinical staff to train and monitor the patient.

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. The health centers offer primary care, dental services, and behavioral health services. We support this legislation as part of a public health strategy to improve health outcomes for people with hypertension. High blood pressure is a treatable condition, yet 1 in 4 adults are untreated.ⁱ With reimbursement for self-measured blood pressure monitoring, Maryland Medicaid could increase the number of adults who are actively engaged in their treatment. Patients who can measure their blood pressure at home can then work with their providers to manage their high blood pressure.

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

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/high-blood-pressure/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>