



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1104 – Maryland Department of Health - AHEAD Model Implementation - Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund

Date: February 19, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 1104 – Maryland Department of Health - AHEAD Model Implementation - Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund*. This bill requires electronic health networks to provide electronic health care transactions to the State–designated health information exchange and creates the Population Health Improvement Fund to invest in population health improvements to support the statewide population health targets under the AHEAD model and any successor models.

On September 5, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new voluntary, state total cost of care model: the States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. CMS collaborates with states to curb health care cost growth; improve population health; and advance health equity by reducing disparities in health outcomes. CMS supports participating states through various AHEAD Model components that aim to increase investment in primary care, provide financial stability for hospitals, and support beneficiary connection to community resources. This legislation is required as part of AHEAD Model implementation in Maryland.

MdAPA supports the goals of the AHEAD Model and we ask for a favorable report so that we can see this Model come to fruition. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.