



**2025 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** HB 553 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring  
**COMMITTEE:** House – Health and Government Operations Committee  
**POSITION:** Letter of Information  
**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 553 would require the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (“Program”) to provide health insurance coverage for self-measured blood pressure monitoring for eligible recipients. The bill would also require the Program to develop and implement an education campaign to inform eligible recipients and health care providers about the benefits of blood pressure monitoring and the availability of assistance, as well as produce and submit an annual report on the Program’s outcomes.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) provides a letter of information for HB 553. The bill would require Maryland’s Medicaid program to provide self-measured blood pressure monitoring equipment to eligible recipients as well as require Medicaid to develop and implement an education campaign for recipients and health care providers. This letter provides information about existing blood pressure programs in MD.

The MD Medicaid program currently provides the equipment and services described in HB 553 through their HealthChoice Managed Care Program and their Remote Patient Monitoring Program to their enrollees according to different eligibility criteria. The data is reported and analyzed. The only component not currently offered is an educational program, but Medicaid provides related information through their provider network.

In addition, many local health departments in Maryland currently offer programming to educate and inform community members regarding the risks associated with high blood pressure and successful management practices to reduce the risk of harms associated with high blood pressure. Programs include the Healthy Hearts program, a four-month program that provides guidance and support to adults with high blood pressure including education on monitoring blood pressure at home as well as lifestyle changes that can help to lower blood pressure. These programs provide participants with a home blood pressure monitor for participants at no cost. Other local health departments offer the Living Well with Hypertension and Living Well with Chronic Disease programs that provide education and support to assist individuals diagnosed with high blood pressure and help them to live healthier lives. These evidence-based programs are valuable resources that community members can access immediately to better manage high blood pressure. Most importantly, these programs are focused on long term health improvements that are often coupled with other chronic disease programs where medically indicated.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits a Letter of Information for the Committee’s consideration for HB 553. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

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