



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 611– Maryland Department of Health - Study on Maryland Medical Assistance Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board Services - Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 611- Maryland Department of Health – Study on Maryland Medical Assistance Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board Services.

The Department currently reimburses room and board when a hospice program participant resides in a nursing facility. Federal law prohibits Medicaid reimbursement for room and board outside of a facility setting, including for hospice services delivered in a community setting such as a hospice house (see e.g., [42 C.F.R. § 441.310\(a\)\(2\)](#) and [42 C.F.R. § 441.360\(b\)](#)).

The Department advises that there is a fiscal impact of \$52,000 total funds (\$26,000 general funds, \$26,000 federal funds) associated with completion of the study required by SB 611, which would be due on September 30, 2026. The Department notes that room and board services delivered by hospice houses are not eligible for federal matching dollars and would ultimately require 100% state general funds.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Government Affairs at [meghan.lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:meghan.lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.  
Secretary of Health