



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 808 – Health Insurance - Provider Panels - Requirements

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) strongly supports *Senate Bill 808 – Health Insurance - Provider Panels - Requirements*. In updating Maryland’s credentialing law, the bill provides for much-needed relief from the administrative burden in navigating an outdated, cumbersome credentialing process. The bill recognizes that use of online credentialing platform can shorten credentialing times substantially and make the provider directory updates more seamless.

MASBHC represents ninety school-based health centers across Maryland that serve students in areas with a high-concentration of poverty. Our school-based health centers are sponsored primarily by federally qualified health centers and local health departments who face unique challenges in the credentialing process. Senate Bill 808 will help school-based health centers by addressing those challenges:

- **Shortening the credentialing timeframe helps under-resource providers:** Under current law, payors can take up to 120 days to process a completed credentialing application. While the law requires insurers and MCOs to backpay claims, school-based health centers do not have the working capital to sustain themselves while waiting for payment. The bill shortens the credentialing timeframe to 30 days, which will allow school-based health centers to hire new providers and expand primary care, behavioral health and dental services;
- **Recognizing the Federal and State Claims Act as Liability Coverage:** To be credentialing, providers must have liability insurance. Providers who work for school-based health centers often encounter delays in the credentialing process, as the law does not define liability coverage as including the Federal and Maryland Tort Claims Act (FQHCs and local health departments

respectively). By clarifying this point, this bill will reduce confusion for school-based health center providers in the credentialing process.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.