Maryland Community Health System

Committee: **Senate Finance Committee**

Bill: **House Bill 494 – Health Insurance – Primary Care Investment Targets – Reimbursement and Reporting**

Hearing Date: **March 24, 2026**

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) strongly supports *Health Insurance – Primary Care Investment Targets – Reimbursement and Reporting.* The bill requires state-regulated commercial plans to meet Maryland's primary care investment targets by setting sufficient rates for providers.

MCHS serves on Maryland's Primary Care Investment Workgroup, as established by Senate Bill 734 of 2022. This workgroup's mission is critical, as 1.6 million Marylanders live in primary care shortage areas.[i] Yet, according to the Maryland Health Care Commission, the level of investment from carriers was flat between 2021 and 2023.[ii] HB 494 helps to increase the investment needed to make primary available in all parts of Maryland. As a network of federally qualified health centers, MCHS has seen first-hand the impact of the shortage of primary care on our underserved communities.

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

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[i] https://www.kff.org/other-health/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D

[ii] https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/documents/pcw/pci_rpt.pdf