



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

ADVANCING LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

House Health Committee

March 19, 2026

House Bill 1126 – *Health Insurance and Managed Care Organizations – Laboratory Services – Contract Providers*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1126.

MTC supports this bill because it both strengthens Maryland's ability to grow our robust life sciences industry and gives patients more freedom to choose which medical laboratory performs their tests. The State of Tennessee passed a similar law in 2023, preventing insurers from allowing a licensed lab into their network if it agrees to the same terms offered to other labs, and from preventing patients from choosing a participating lab of their choice. We encourage the Committee to pass House Bill 1126 to ensure that Maryland patients have the same choice for laboratory services.

First, this bill benefits Maryland patients by allowing them to use a laboratory provider of their choosing rather than being limited by the network of their health insurance provider. Under current practices, health insurers and managed care organizations restrict which labs patients can use. The bill would ensure that insurance companies and Medicaid could not prevent or limit patients from choosing a laboratory of their choice for tests. Insurers and Medicaid could also not refuse to let a lab participate in their health plan if the lab agrees to the plan's terms and conditions, and would prevent charging additional copays, fees, or conditions just because a patient chooses a certain laboratory. This bill could also improve the quality and coordination of patient care in Maryland. Timely access to advanced diagnostics can help physicians identify diseases earlier, guide appropriate treatment decisions, and avoid costly complications. Delays in diagnosis can result in prolonged treatment cycles, unnecessary testing, preventable hospitalizations, and higher overall healthcare costs.

Second, passage of this bill would further strengthen Maryland's already robust life sciences and biotechnology ecosystem. Independent and emerging diagnostic laboratories are an important part of this ecosystem. Many of these companies are developing advanced diagnostic technologies that improve the detection, monitoring, and treatment of diseases. However, when qualified laboratories face barriers to participating in healthcare networks, it can limit these innovative companies' opportunities to scale their technologies and deliver new solutions to patients and providers. Many of the laboratories and biotechnology companies developing advanced diagnostics are small- and mid-sized Maryland businesses that employ scientists, engineers, and highly skilled technical professionals. When these companies have the opportunity to grow within the state, they create jobs, attract investment, and contribute to Maryland's leadership in life sciences and precision medicine.

By supporting patient choice and encouraging a competitive laboratory services environment, House Bill 1126 furthers Maryland's goals of improving healthcare access, supporting medical innovation, and promoting a robust life sciences sector. For these reasons, the MTC respectfully urges a **favorable** report on House Bill 1126.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000