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Legislative District 26
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee
Criminal Subcommittee
Chair, Juvenile Subcommittee
Public Safety Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB971 - Maryland Medical Advisory Committee - Duties and Workgroup to Study the Adoption of a Fee-for-Service Model for All Medicaid Services

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and esteemed members of the Health Committee.

For the record, my name is Delegate Jamila Woods, and I am here today to request a favorable report on House Bill 971, legislation to strengthen the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee and establish a Workgroup to Study the Adoption of a Fee-for-Service Model for All Medicaid Services.

Maryland's Medicaid program serves some of our most vulnerable residents, and the decisions we make about how care is financed and delivered directly impact access, quality, and outcomes. HB971 is a measured, responsible step to ensure the State is continuously evaluating whether our current managed care structure is delivering the best results for enrollees, providers, and taxpayers and whether alternative models could better meet Maryland's needs.

First, HB971 clarifies and strengthens the role of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee by expressly authorizing the Committee to form workgroups and subcommittees as needed to carry out its duties. The Committee is already charged with advising the Secretary on managed care implementation and evaluation, reviewing regulations and contract standards, examining quality oversight, and promoting consumer-friendly performance information. Allowing workgroups and subcommittees gives the Committee a practical tool to do its job thoroughly and transparently, with the depth of stakeholder input this program deserves.

Second, HB971 establishes a time-limited Workgroup to Study the Adoption of a Fee-for-Service Model for All Medicaid Services. This Workgroup is designed to evaluate the feasibility of a direct care payment model—often described as fee-for-service—across Maryland's Medicaid program. Importantly, this bill does not mandate an immediate transition. It creates a structured process to study whether such a transition is feasible, what it would require, and what Maryland can learn from other states.

The Workgroup's charge is specific and evidence focused. It will review Connecticut's experience delivering Medicaid through a fee-for-service model, including potential revenue savings from moving away from managed care organizations and the impact on total cost of care, provider participation, and access to services. It will also examine Maryland's own experience using fee-for-service in certain contexts, including how it affects coordination for agencies and providers. The Workgroup will review other states that have implemented or are exploring direct care models,

assess evidence-based studies on outcomes, and propose a potential transition timeline if the model is found to be feasible and beneficial.

HB971 is also structured to ensure balanced participation. Membership includes legislative representation, the Maryland Health Care Commission, and gubernatorial appointees representing providers and Medicaid advocates, with flexibility to include other necessary perspectives. The Workgroup is staffed by the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee, is time-limited, and must report findings and recommendations by January 1, 2027.

At its core, HB971 is about accountability and thoughtful planning. Medicaid is too important—and the stakes are too high—for Maryland to rely on assumptions about what model works best. This bill ensures we are using data, lived experience, and best practices from other states to guide policy decisions that affect real people every day.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 971.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamila J. Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Delegate Jamila J. Woods
Maryland House of Delegates
District 26 – Prince George’s County