

TO:

[Chair Heather A. Bagnall](#)
and Members of the [House Health Committee](#)
Maryland House of Delegates

FROM:

Andrew Diamond
Chief Executive Officer
Diamond Medical Laboratories
66 Painters Mill Road, Suite 200
Owings Mills, MD 21117
Email: andy@diamondmedicallabs.com
Cell: 443-992-2782 | Office: 410-834-8600



DATE: March 17, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

**Testimony in Support of [House Bill 1126](#)
Health Insurance and Managed Care Organizations – Laboratory Services – Contract
Providers**

House Health Committee

Hearing: March 19, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Diamond, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Diamond Medical Laboratories, a Maryland-based clinical laboratory that specializes in serving patients in post-acute care settings. Our laboratory primarily supports individuals who reside in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living communities, and seniors who are aging in place and receiving care at home.

Diamond Medical Laboratories was founded specifically to meet the diagnostic needs of the post-acute care community. Many of the patients we serve are elderly individuals managing multiple chronic conditions who depend on timely laboratory testing so their physicians can make prompt clinical decisions. Our laboratory is designed to provide same-day results whenever possible so physicians and care teams in nursing homes, assisted living communities and providers for homebound patients can respond quickly to changes in a patient's condition.

On an average day, our laboratory supports the care of **up to 2,400 patients across Maryland**. Many of the tests we perform are routine but critical to managing the health of seniors and medically fragile patients, including complete blood counts, metabolic panels, electrolyte monitoring, medication level testing, urinalysis, and other diagnostic services that allow clinicians to detect infections, monitor medications, and manage chronic disease safely.

For our patient populations, timely diagnostic information can often determine whether a condition can be treated safely in place or whether the patient must be transferred to a hospital.

Rapid and reliable laboratory testing helps physicians intervene earlier, avoid complications, and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations among vulnerable patients.

House Bill 1126 addresses an important structural issue affecting patient access to laboratory services. The legislation prohibits certain carriers and managed care organizations from limiting an enrollee's ability to select a laboratory and from denying a qualified laboratory the opportunity to participate in a health benefit plan when the laboratory agrees to comply with the plan's terms and conditions. It also prevents discriminatory copayments, fees, or conditions from being applied to laboratory services.

For seniors living in nursing homes, assisted living communities, or receiving care at home, access to appropriate laboratory services is essential. These patients often have limited mobility and depend on coordinated healthcare services that can reach them where they live. Laboratories that specialize in serving these communities play a vital role in helping clinicians deliver timely care and maintain patient stability.

Ensuring that qualified laboratories can participate in health plan networks on fair and nondiscriminatory terms helps strengthen Maryland's healthcare infrastructure and supports the ability of physicians and care teams to provide timely diagnostic care to some of our most vulnerable residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1126.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Diamond
Chief Executive Officer
Diamond Medical Laboratories