

HB1167\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#1167 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Maryland Department of Health - Medicaid Management Information System - Mainframe System Replacement**

**TO:** Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee  
**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/1167, Maryland Department of Health - Medicaid Management Information System - Mainframe System Replacement**

The Maryland Department of Health Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) has historically used a legacy COBOL-based infrastructure. Procured around 1992, the system has relied on mainframe processing for claims, though it has been characterized as a "tenuous" system requiring extensive, outdated maintenance. <sup>1</sup>

Key details regarding the system:

- Legacy Technology: The MMIS is described as a legacy system using an older, inflexible design, often requiring "patchwork solutions".
- Mainframe/COBOL: It operates on a mainframe processor, which is typically associated with COBOL, and is recognized as having legacy COBOL-based infrastructure.
- System Functions: It processes claims, handles service/eligibility changes, and manages new regulations.
- Modernization Efforts: Due to its age, there have been efforts to replace or modernize this infrastructure, as indicated in discussions around AI and system upgrades.

I used COBOL during my time in Information Technology, it is no longer taught and the programmers to maintain it are now senior citizens. When we are no longer around who can and will maintain these systems?

This bill, recognizing that the technology has outlived its systems life, will require the Maryland Department of Health to replace the State Medicaid Management Information System mainframe with a modular system.

Maryland needs to have a twenty-first century MMIS and this bill will require that should happen.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1167.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search "is the Maryland Department of Health - Medicaid Management Information System in cobol"