



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 25, 2026

To: The Honorable Emily Shetty, Chair, **House Health & Social Services Subcommittee**
The Honorable Dana Jones, Vice Chair, **House Health & Social Services Subcommittee**

Re: Letter of Support – Maryland Department of Health – Medical Care Programs
Administration

Dear Chair Shetty and Vice Chair Jones,

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of fully funding and protecting Medicaid funding to ensure vulnerable Marylanders continue to have access to essential health care.

Medicaid remains a foundational component of Maryland's health care system, providing coverage for approximately [1.5 million people](#) statewide, half of whom are children. The Maryland Department of Health estimates the state could [lose up to \\$2.7 billion in federal funding](#) as a result of the federal legislation H.R.1 (2025). Approximately 130,000 Marylanders are projected to lose coverage due to the bill's new work requirements and six-month redeterminations for over 330,000 adults who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act expansion.

These federal changes threaten access to affordable health care in the state. Coverage losses could lead more people to seek hospital emergency care, increasing the burden of uncompensated care on providers. These impacts are compounded by the transition to the AHEAD Model, under which Maryland hospitals are projected to face more than \$800 million in reduced Medicaid and Medicare payments over Model period. With rising costs and mounting funding losses, the health care system simply cannot afford any Marylander to lose health care coverage.

It is imperative, therefore, that the Medicaid program be funded at the level necessary to ensure adequate administrative capacity. There must be sufficient investment to ensure effective eligibility systems, redetermination systems, and beneficiary assistance to implement these work requirements and help people navigate bureaucratic systems.

We urge the Committee to fully fund and safeguard the Medicaid program so that no Marylander loses access to needed care due to avoidable coverage loss or administrative barriers.

For more information, please contact:

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