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House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Bill 736 – *Workgroup to Recommend Possible Reforms to Maryland's Health Care System*
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT
March 10, 2017

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we **support** House Bill 736: *Workgroup to Recommend Possible Reforms to Maryland's Health Care System*. House Bill 736 establishes a workgroup to recommend possible reforms to Maryland's health care delivery system, dependent on action taken on the federal level.

According to the Department of Legislative Services, federal funding provided under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) supports over \$1.4 billion in services in the fiscal 2018 budget, and the State anticipates over \$7.7 billion in ACA funding through fiscal 2022. Outside of the direct budget connections between Maryland and the ACA, Maryland's health care policy is supported by other provisions allowed under the ACA. Most notably is the fact that Maryland's All-Payer Model Contract was approved through a federal agency established by the ACA. Failure to renew our current five-year contract would result in Medicare and Medicaid payments to Maryland being reduced by \$2.3 billion annually. A full overview can be found in the Fiscal Briefing presented by the Department of Legislative Services (January 2017).

Not only would the repeal of the ACA have a negative effect on the State's budget and the ability of Maryland residents to access health care coverage, but there is also great uncertainty regarding whether the Medicaid program will be transformed from a fee-for-service to a block grant program, which will have an equally negative impact on the State's budget and the ability to provide needed care to those in need.

Given the importance of this issue and the number of stakeholder organizations that will be affected by changes, we recommend that language be included to require a clear process for stakeholders to provide input. We recommend the following:

On page 3, after line 19, insert:

“(3) The Commission shall solicit input from stakeholders, including conducting public meetings across the State to conduct the study.”

LifeSpan Network
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Maryland Association of Adult Day Services
Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
MedChi
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Maryland Section, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

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