



The Maryland State Medical Society

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Community Health Resources Commission
Budget Hearing

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) wishes to register its strong support for the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC). The CHRC was first created to provide a mechanism for the State to provide grant funding to creative community-based projects with the objective of identifying approaches to addressing Maryland's access to care challenges in underserved communities. The CHRC's impact on this objective is notable and has been recognized by policymakers as new initiatives related to the medically underserved communities have been identified. The confidence in the CHRC is exemplified by the decisions to have both the Health Equity Resource Communities (HERC) initiative and the Consortium on Coordinated Communities Supports (Consortium) administered by the CHRC.

The CHRC has been an invaluable force in Maryland's ongoing effort to assure adequate access to high quality health care services to all Maryland residents. To that end, MedChi is concerned about future funding for the CHRC. While the current budget includes the \$8 million that has historically been the annual funding for CHRC's core grant program, there is no longer a permanent funding source for those grants. Historically, the total annual funding requests reflected in the CHRC's grant applications far exceed the \$8 million in funding. While MedChi is not advocating for an increase in the CHRC's core grant program funding, it strongly urges the Committee to identify a permanent funding source or mandated appropriation for the \$8 million budget to ensure that medically underserved communities will continue to benefit from the creative, effective, and sustainable programs that have been grant funded by the CHRC.

MedChi fully supports the work of the CHRC and urges this Committee to retain the full funding for the CHRC reflected in the Governor's budget for CHRC's core grant program as well as the HERC initiative and the Consortium and identify a permanent funding source for the core grant program in future fiscal years and continue the CHRC's annual mandated appropriation at \$8 million per year in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond.

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cc: Governor's Legislative Office