



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

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Health and Social Services

February 15, 2021

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 have been identified. Furthermore, the grant program the CHRC administers has leveraged thousands of dollars in additional federal and private funding in support of the projects identified and funded through 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. MedChi fully supports the work of the CHRC and urges this Committee to retain the full funding reflected in the Governor's budget, which is consistent with the funding requirements reflected in the CHRC statute. MedChi would note that there are provisions in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) that will reduce the funding for the Commission and permanently alter the Commission's funding framework. MedChi believes the proposed changes will have a significant negative impact on the work of the Commission as well as the communities served by the grant funding the Commission provides to innovative projects that address challenging health concerns. MedChi will address those issues at the hearing on the BRFA but wanted to bring the provisions to the attention of the Subcommittee.

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cc: Governor's Legislative Office