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Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
March 2, 2026
MDH Medical Care Programs Administration Budget
SUPPORT: Proposed FY 2027 Budget

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, respectfully submits this letter in response to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) budget analysis for the FY 2027 Medical Care Programs Administration (MCPA) of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). MedChi supports the MCPA budget as introduced by the Moore Administration and thanks the Administration for recognizing the importance of properly funding evaluation and management (E&M) rates.

Adequately funding E&M rates is essential for ensuring access to primary care in Maryland, particularly for low-income populations in both urban and rural areas of the State. Lower payment rates risk lower provider participation, as physicians are already struggling to cover expenses. Without enough participating physicians, Medicaid patients may not have sufficient access to physician services. This lack of access for beneficiaries could result in longer waiting times for services, longer travel for care, or difficulty finding a physician. Governor Moore's proposed budget recognized these challenges by maintaining E&M rates at Fiscal Year 2026 levels. Adequately funding E&M rates is further justified and necessary because primary care is an important component of Maryland's efforts under the new AHEAD Model and could jeopardize our ability to succeed and meet the Model's goals.

Ideally, MedChi advocates for a return of E&M rates to 100% of Medicare. However, recognizing the State's fiscal challenges, we recognize that this may be a longer-term goal. Therefore, we urge the Subcommittee to support the Moore Administration's proposed budget. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information call:

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