



April 1, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
 Governor  
 State House  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 public health crises. Your actions and the diligent work of your Administration have saved thousands of lives. Our organizations, representing both health care providers and health care consumers, are supportive of your efforts to protect all Marylanders.

Maryland needs to deploy comprehensive telehealth strategies to keep people safe in their homes and out of emergency rooms. Yet, many health professionals cannot fully utilize telehealth

technology because of outdated restrictions under their licensure boards. *We are urgently asking you to lift these restrictions by signing Senate Bill 402/House Bill 448 – Health Occupations- Telehealth.*

We thank you for the earlier actions of your Administration in making reimbursement available for telehealth services. By signing *Senate Bill 1080/House Bill 1663*, you have required reimbursement for COVID-19 related services. Then under guidance from the Secretary of Health, your Administration has authorized Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services provided in patients' homes. These actions are critical, but the benefit cannot be fully realized until *SB 402/HB 448* is signed. Until then, many health care practitioners will continue to face regulatory barriers in communicating with their patients through telehealth.

We are thankful to be living in communities striving to contain the spread of COVID-19. Marylanders are staying at home and following the public health directives of Maryland leadership. Some Marylanders are healthy and just need to remain healthy. Other Marylanders are struggling with underlying health conditions; and they are worried, sometimes frightened, of the impact of social isolation on their health. Please help health care practitioners help their patients stay in their homes by signing *SB 402/HB 448*.

Sincerely,

Maria Brown, MD – President  
American Academy of Pediatrics – Maryland Chapter

Robert C. Linton II, MD, FACEP - President  
American College of Emergency Physicians – Maryland Chapter

Melissa Fleming, MSN, CNM - President  
American College of Nurse Midwives – Maryland Chapter

Robert Atlas, MD - President  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Maryland Chapter

Tonya A. Winders, President and CEO  
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Caitlin Donohue-Vega, RDH, BS  
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Barbara Maliszewski, MS, RN, NEA-BC – President  
Emergency Nursing Association – Maryland State Council

Elaine Crain, NP - President  
Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians

Theresa M. Neumann, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA – Legislative Director  
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Kim Wireman, LCSW-C, LCADC – Board Member  
Maryland Addiction Directors Council

Donna Behrens – Policy Committee Chair  
Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care

Vickie Walters, LCSW-C - President  
Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence

Sarah Basehart  
Maryland Centers for Independent Living

Mark Wells, DC - President  
Maryland Chiropractic Association

Judy Gallant, LCSW-C, Legislative Chair  
Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

Joe Adams, MD – Chair, Public Policy Committee  
Maryland-DC Society for Addiction Medicine

Mary Backley – Executive Director  
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

Jennifer Witten – Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Maryland Hospital Association

Charlotte Wood, Ph.D., RN, MSN, MBA - President  
Maryland Nurses Association

Lori Patria, MS, OTR/L - President  
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

Ellie Mitchell - Director  
Maryland Out of School Time Network

Lara Wilson, MS – Executive Director  
Maryland Rural Health Association

Gene Ranson – CEO & Executive Director  
MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society

Linda Raines - CEO  
Mental Health Association of Maryland

Karen Williams - CEO  
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers

Jessica Kohlen – Interim Executive Director  
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NAMI Maryland

Daphne McClellan, Ph.D., MSW, Executive Director  
National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter

Nancy Rosen-Cohen, Ph.D. – Executive Director  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Maryland Chapter

Shannon Wood - Senior Manager, Advocacy  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Mike Finkle – Executive Director  
On Our Own of Maryland

Karen Nelson – President & CEO  
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

John Nethercut – Executive Director  
Public Justice Center

Claudia Duck Tucker – Vice President, Governmental Affairs  
Teladoc Health

James Weisman - President and CEO  
United Spinal Association