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 crisis. 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technology because of outdated restrictions under their licensure boards.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, LSCW-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 Kohnen – Interim Executive Director
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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
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James Weisman - President and CEO
United Spinal Association