



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Maryland Section

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House Health and Government Operations Committee  
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House Bill 553 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring*  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 553. This bill focuses on the Medicaid program and mandates coverage for self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) monitoring for enrollees who are pregnant, postpartum, or diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, or any cardiometabolic condition.

The coverage includes providing validated home blood pressure monitors and compensating healthcare providers and staff for training, data transmission, interpretation, remote patient monitoring, and the delivery of co-interventions, which may consist of educational materials or classes. Additionally, the bill requires Medicaid to create and implement an educational campaign highlighting the benefits and proper use of blood pressure monitoring technology.

This legislation, which aligns Maryland with 42 other states that already cover various aspects of this important management tool, could significantly improve health outcomes for Maryland residents, particularly those in underserved communities. Hypertension is a leading cause of heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure in the United States. The American Medical Association emphasizes that SMBP monitoring is vital in managing hypertension, as it allows individuals to better oversee their blood pressure by providing accurate, real-time data. This leads to improved treatment outcomes and more personalized care. Moreover, encouraging patients to monitor their blood pressure at home can enhance engagement and adherence to treatment plans, resulting in better long-term health outcomes.

SMBP coverage is especially beneficial for individuals in underserved communities, those with limited access to healthcare facilities, and people facing transportation challenges. Furthermore, research has shown that self-monitoring can decrease healthcare costs by preventing expensive hospitalizations and emergency room visits related to uncontrolled hypertension, which is particularly important in Maryland given the lengthy wait times in emergency departments.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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