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Senate Finance Committee

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House Bill 1104 – *Maryland Department of Health – AHEAD Model Implementation –
Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports with amendment House Bill 1104, which proposes the creation of a Population Health Trust Fund aimed at enhancing public health initiatives and addressing health disparities across Maryland. MedChi acknowledges the potential of this fund to improve population health outcomes but urges several key amendments to ensure its effectiveness, transparency, and sustainability.

Recommended Amendments:

1. Increase Stakeholder Participation and Transparency:

MedChi strongly recommends broadening stakeholder representation within the governance structure of the Population Health Trust Fund. An independent board should be established to oversee fund allocation and strategic direction, ensuring decisions are made with diverse input and accountability. This board should include representation from MedChi and other key stakeholders, including public health experts, hospitals, patients, and community organizations.

2. Checks and Balances for Accountability:

To enhance trust and maintain integrity in decision-making, a system of checks and balances should be implemented. This system should include regular public reporting, transparent decision-making processes, and external audits. These measures will ensure funds are utilized effectively and equitably across communities in Maryland.

3. Governance Structure and Independence:

MedChi believes that the Population Health Trust Fund should be housed within an independent public health authority, similar to the model used by CRISP, Maryland's health information exchange. This structure would enable operational flexibility and ensure focused

public health expertise, free from undue political influence.

MedChi supports the vision behind the Population Health Trust Fund but believes these amendments are essential to maximize its impact and sustainability. By ensuring an independent governance structure with broad stakeholder representation, transparent decision-making, and effective checks and balances, Maryland can create a model of excellence in public health funding and management.

We urge the committee to adopt these amendments and thank you for considering MedChi's perspective. We look forward to continued collaboration to enhance the health and well-being of all Marylanders.

For more information call:

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