



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

House Health Committee

March 3, 2026

House Bill 1291 – *Public Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Continuity of Care*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** House Bill 1291.

House Bill 1291 is a health-care continuity law focused on Medicaid recipients age 65 and older who receive in-home services. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to adopt regulations establishing a process for the temporary continuation of services for eligible seniors when services are interrupted due to an administrative or technical error. MedChi strongly supports ensuring continuity of care for older Medicaid recipients facing a lapse in coverage. Older adults receiving in-home care are especially vulnerable to lapses and the consequences of interrupted care could be particularly severe.

However, when MedChi physicians discussed this bill, they shared experiences with other patients who faced a lapse in care due to an administrative or technical error. Therefore, MedChi requests that the committee consider expanding the protections in this bill to other Medicaid patients, many of whom are similarly vulnerable when faced with an interruption in care. While there are existing appeal and hearing rights for recipients facing loss of care due to an administrative decision or error, we believe that all Medicaid recipients would benefit from the temporary continuity of coverage afforded under this bill.

Again, MedChi is strongly supportive of the protections for older adults proposed in this bill but feel it would be made even stronger with an amendment to provide this important protection to all Medicaid enrollees. Strong public health outcomes depend on access and continuity of care. With our proposed amendment, MedChi supports House Bill 1291.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000