



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

ABLE, RESPONSIVE FAMILY PHYSICIANS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

TO: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
Members, Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke

FROM: MD Academy of Family Physicians, Mozella Williams, M.D., President

DATE: February 20, 2020

RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 970-Health Insurance-Reimbursement of Primary Care Providers-Bonus Payments-Applicability

On behalf of the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians (“Academy”), I am writing in support of HB 970—Health Insurance-Reimbursement of Primary Care Providers-Bonus Payments-Applicability. The Academy is the largest professional medical specialty society in Maryland, with over 1,200 members who are practicing family physicians, family physicians in training and medical students. The Academy requests your support this legislation for the reasons set forth below.

Existing law requires insurers to pay a bonus payment to “primary care providers” for services provided after 6 p.m. and before 8 a.m., and on weekends and national holidays. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that urgent care centers and others are properly treated as primary care providers for purposes of the statute. The purpose of the existing law is to reduce emergency room utilization and to provide primary care services when the patient’s designated primary care provider is unavailable. Regardless of whether these services are provided in an office or in an urgent care setting, they achieve the same purpose, and therefore should be compensated equally.

For these reasons, the Academy strongly supports HB 970.