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Appropriations Committee

Public Safety and
Administration Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 1485 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency
Service Transporters - Reimbursement

Chair Pendergrass & Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Marylanders across the state rely on Emergency Medical Services for care in the most dire situations. Many EMS companies are struggling to pay bills due to gradual decreases in volunteerism and increase in cost of supplies, equipment, etc.

Currently, the Maryland Medicaid program will only reimburse EMS companies if a transfer of care occurs. This means that if a patient refuses care upon arrival at the nearest hospital or healthcare facility, the EMS company will receive zero reimbursement funds for that service call. In addition to the lack of reimbursement, Maryland does not reimburse EMS companies for any mileage accrued during service calls.

HB 1485 gives EMS companies the option to bill Medicaid for their services by removing language in the current law, which states a "transfer of care" must occur. EMS companies would now have the discretion to choose to bill Medicaid.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a Favorable report on HB 1485.