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Appropriations Committee

Public Safety and
Administration Subcommittee



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Testimony in Support of House Bill 1496 Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service
Transporters - Reimbursement for Transportation and Medical Services

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

Maryland currently has a Medicaid reimbursement rate of \$100 for both basic and advanced life support, and does not reimburse for mileage. This reimbursement rate was established in June of 1999 and has not been updated since. Prices for nearly everything have increased over the past 20 years... To put this into perspective...

In 1999, a gallon of gas cost \$1.30 – today, it costs \$2.42. In 1999, a loaf of bread was \$1.49 – today, it costs \$2.45. In fact, a brand new ambulance cost approximately \$180,000 in 1995 and today a new ambulance costs over \$260,000.

If we were to compare with neighboring states, we would see a significant deficiency within our Medicaid rate. Pennsylvania has a rate of \$180 for basic life support care and \$300 for advanced life support care, with a \$2 mileage reimbursement rate. West Virginia has a rate of \$112.50 for basic life support and \$377.50 for advanced life support with a \$3.80 mileage reimbursement rate. Not only is the rate outdated, but it is significantly less than neighboring states. EMS professionals give us their very best by serving the citizens of Maryland and it's time for us to lift a bit of their burden by increasing the reimbursement rate.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a Favorable report on HB 1496.

	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	WEST VIRGINIA
Basic Life Support	\$100	\$180	\$112.50
Advanced Life Support	\$100	\$300	\$377.50
Mileage Rate	\$0	\$2 (loaded over 20 miles)	\$3.80