

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Gene M. Ransom, CEO

DATE: March 2, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1022 – *Public Health - State Designated Exchange - Clinical Information*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 1022.

House Bill 1022 requires an electronic health network to provide administrative transactions to the State Designated Exchange (i.e., CRISP) for public health and clinical purposes. An electronic health network may not charge a fee to a health care provider or to CRISP for providing the information. Under the bill, CRISP is required to develop and implement policies and procedures that are consistent with regulations adopted by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). The regulations adopted by MHCC should provide for a uniform, gradual implementation of the exchange of clinical information that limits redisclosure of financial information, including billed or paid amounts available in electronic claims transactions; restricts data of patients who have opted out of records sharing through the state designated exchange or a health information exchange authorized by MHCC; and restrict data from health care providers that possess sensitive health care information.

The sharing of data through CRISP is paramount to the coordination of patient care in Maryland and to achieve Maryland's continued efforts to reform the delivery of care under Maryland Total Cost of Care model. Health care practitioners and health systems need up-to-date information to ensure patients receive appropriate treatment and that resources are being appropriately used. This became especially obvious during the COVID-19 pandemic where CRISP provided critical information to both providers and the State information on hospital and nursing home capacity. House Bill 1022 will leverage existing resources and streamline the sharing of information by requiring information from an electronic health network to be shared with CRISP. This will provide practitioners with greater access to a patient's care and reduce the burden currently placed on physicians and other practitioners. MedChi strongly urges a favorable report.

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