



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 694 - Hospitals - Financial Assistance - Medical Bill Reimbursement

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 2, 2022

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chairman Pena-Melnyk and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 694 - Health and Government Operations**. I would like to thank Delegate Lorig Charkoudian for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

The Comptroller's Office worked with Delegate Charkoudian, the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) on this legislation, and I am proud to support this commonsense effort to connect more Marylanders with benefits they are entitled to receive.

By using existing income data to help identify those eligible for benefits, this legislation creates a process by which the Comptroller's Office and DHS will help working families reclaim approximately \$60 million in out-of-pocket healthcare expenses annually. It has long been a priority of the Comptroller's Office to leverage its trove of economic data to help improve programs codified in state law to work better and more efficiently, and this legislation helps accomplish that goal.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 694. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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