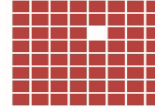




1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5585
410-727-2237
e-mail: mdacep@aol.com
www.mdacep.org



**Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

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

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 353 – *Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP) **supports with amendment** House Bill 353.

This bill increases the limit on the amount of user fees that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) can generate annually. Currently the limit is \$16 million dollars, with approximately 16% (or \$2.5 million) of that amount coming from health care providers. House Bill 353 would increase the limit by 25% to \$20 million.

The MHCC performs some valuable functions, including researching and studying important health care matters. Current subject matter includes Advanced Directives and the Telehealth Study mandated last year by the General Assembly. It also engages in ongoing reviews of Certificate of Need applications and updating the State's Health Plan.

However, most of the projects of the MHCC do not benefit solely those who pay the user fees. Rather, they benefit the consumer of healthcare as much as facilities and providers. Accordingly, MedChi and MDACEP believe that the increase sought, if warranted, should come from the General Fund rather than user fees. The existing cap on fees assessed to "users" should be held firm, and the additional funds sought by MHCC should be derived from the General Fund.

For these reasons, MedChi and MDACEP support House Bill 353 with amendment.

AMENDMENT:

On page 2 at line 21, delete the brackets and delete "\$20,000,000."

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000