



- Washington County Government
- City of Hagerstown
- Hagerstown Community College
- Washington Co. Free Library
- Town of Williamsport
- Town of Boonsboro
- The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.
- Hagerstown-Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitor's Bureau)
- CHIEF (Hagerstown-Washington Co. Industrial Foundation)

Washington County Community Coalition

Lobbyist: John Favazza, Esquire Mannis Canning & Associates 410.263.7882 jfavazza@maniscanning.com

Legislative Position: Support HB044/SB295

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement House Appropriations Committee and Health & Governmental Affairs Committee

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations
HOB Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass
Chair, Health & Government Operations
HOB Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB044/SB295 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

Dear Chairwomen McIntosh, Pendergrass and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Washington County Community Coalition, representing ten community partner groups, would like to express our strong support for SB-295/HB-044 – “Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement”

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in our County continue to struggle to fund operations. Volunteerism is dropping, costs are rising, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain personnel. Approximately 3 out of 4 EMS employees leave our county within 5 years - often going to higher paying areas in our region.

Currently, Maryland Medicaid has a flat fee of \$100.00 for medical approved transports. The service providers in Maryland can only bill for one transport per patient in a 24 hour period, regardless of the number of times the patient is transported.

In our neighboring states of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the Ambulance Fee Schedules are based on service type plus ground mileage. In Pennsylvania, the service providers can bill 2 times per patient in a 24 hour period while Maryland can only bill once.

Maryland’s Medicaid reimbursement rate has failed to increase over time and no longer covers the ever-rising operational costs of our EMS companies. Neighboring communities in other states receive approximately \$377 per call from Medicaid versus Washington County which receives only \$100 per emergency call. These inadequate reimbursement levels are not covering the rising costs to provide fast and quality service - forcing our EMS companies to pull from other limited sources of revenue to support the growing demand for emergency transport. The constantly growing funding pressure on our EMS companies is impacting their ability to adequately staff their operations and provide fair wages.



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We are asking the state to support SB295 (and HB044) that increases the Medicaid reimbursement rate over time. Adequately funding our emergency service organizations in order to provide quality emergency care and fast emergency transport for the citizens of Maryland should be a top priority for the state. This legislation which incrementally raises reimbursement rates similar to our neighboring states and establishes studies to further improve emergency care is a positive step forward and deserves your support. We thank you for strongly considering the passage of this legislation and appreciate your continued public service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Paul Frey, *Managing Partner for The Washington County Community Coalition*

Data:

A complete list of West Virginia Medicaid Ambulance fee schedule information can be located on the West Virginia Bureau of Medical Services site: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/FEES/Pages/Ambulance-Fee-Schedule.aspx>

A complete list of Pennsylvania Medicaid Ambulance Fee Schedule information can be located at PA Medicaid site: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/bulletin_admin/c_133665.pdf