



MARYLAND ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

ABLE, RESPONSIVE FAMILY PHYSICIANS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

January 3, 2017

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland
21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan:

In a letter sent to you on December 2nd, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and other Congressional leaders requested your input on suggested changes to current health laws that impact family physicians and their patients. As you respond to this important request, the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians (representing a Maryland constituency of 1400+ physicians and student members), offers four strong recommendations to bolster health in our state.

1. Currently insured individuals should not lose public or private health insurance.
2. Anti-discrimination protections must be maintained, in all health insurance marketplaces and across all plans, to ensure all individuals, regardless of age, race, gender, or medical history may obtain access to affordable, high quality health care.
3. Maryland's unique All Payer Model, along with the complementary, proposed Maryland Comprehensive Primary Care and Duals ACO models, should be funded and implemented. Maryland is the nation's laboratory and role model for assuming accountability for the quality and total cost of care for local populations.
4. Primary care is and must remain a critical and foundational component of any health care system.ⁱ Yet not all

Patricia A. Czapp, M.D.
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Individuals access primary care, often because of prohibitive costs associated with high-deductible plans. Their undiagnosed and untreated conditions (for example diabetes, hypertension, cancer) worsen to the point that the local Emergency Room becomes their entry to care that is disappointingly end-stage, crisis-driven, costly, and frankly, frightening. Maryland can once again lead in innovation by allowing individuals with Health Savings Accounts to use their dollars on low-cost, high-quality primary care (also known as Direct Primary Care) while saving their insurance for specialty and crisis care. This strategy would improve health outcomes while maintaining patient choice and marketplace stability.

We, as do you, advocate for improvements to our current health system that will benefit citizens of our state. We stand ready to work with you to provide Maryland a healthier future.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Czapp
President
Maryland Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Maryland Congressional Delegation

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¹ Portland State University completed a 2016 study of Oregon's Patient Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH) program and found that every \$1 increase in primary care expenditures as part of the PCPCH model resulted in \$13 in savings in other health care services, including specialty, emergency room, and inpatient care.