



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary*

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December 7, 2015

John M. Colmers  
Chairman  
The Health Services Cost Review Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215


Dear Chairman Colmers:

I write to offer the Department's support for the December 9, 2015 HSCRC staff recommendation regarding the Health Employment Program document prepared by the Maryland Hospital Association.

In short, the revised proposal recognizes that HSCRC's scope and efforts should remain focused on the continued development of the All-Payer Model. The revised staff recommendation addresses the Department's previously stated interest in making this investment one-time and also requires hospitals to have 'skin in the game' through matching funds to support the development and implementation of the program. We strongly believe that after an initial investment of \$5 million from the fiscal year 2017 update factor, hospitals should plan to fund positions from existing rates, community benefits funds, resources derived from reductions in hospitalizations, and other grant, philanthropy, and foundation support. It is 100 percent in the interest of the hospitals – both collectively and individually – to make sure ongoing community resources are available to meet the goals of the agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the All-Payer Model.

As one of the largest payers and employers in the state, we thank you and the Commission for the work on this complex effort and look forward to participating in developments moving forward. Please contact Shannon McMahon, Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing at 410-767-4139 with questions.

Sincerely,

  
Van T. Mitchell  
Secretary