



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

**STATEMENT OF THE
MARYLAND CITIZENS HEALTH INITIATIVE
REGARDING
HOUSE BILL 152 – BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND FINANCING ACT
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

Madame Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Citizens Health Initiative and the Health Care for All Coalition is an alliance of civil rights, labor, religious, and civic organization seeking to provide everyone with access to health care. They strongly urge you to reject the provision of this bill found in the middle of Page 19 which would decrease the annual appropriation to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange from \$35 million to \$32 million.

The argument by the Administration in favor of this cut is that not all of the funds have been spent in the past. There now exists an opportunity, however, to use those unspent funds to help small businesses provide health care to their employees and help to implement the landmark Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program. Making this cut at this time, therefore, would not be prudent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.