



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

**STATEMENT OF THE  
MARYLAND CITIZENS HEALTH INITIATIVE  
REGARDING  
SENATE BILL 192 – BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND FINANCING ACT  
FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation 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 on the top of Page 20 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.