



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support with Amendment – House Bill 188 - Public Health - State-Provided
Health Care Benefits

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Chairman Davis:

I am writing in support of House Bill 188, State-Provided Health Care Benefits. This bill would create the single-payer HealthCare Maryland program in Maryland, which would provide health care benefits to State residents who do not receive federal benefits. Single-payer health care as a policy is the direction this country should be moving towards as health care spending per capita is the highest in the world, with only middling health outcomes to show for the 17.7% of our Gross Domestic Product that we spend as a nation on health care. House Bill 188 is a significant first step towards Maryland becoming a leader among states who are considering single-payer programs.

While I support single-payer health care, I believe that enrollees should shoulder a portion of the cost of the program, with considerations for enrollee income; while the bill stipulates that Managed Care Organizations participating in the HealthCare Maryland program may require cost-sharing by enrollees, they may only do so after demonstrating that they have obtained all other possible funding before turning to enrollees. I would like the bill to reflect that this requirement should not be an unrealistic threshold to meet – the success of a single-payer system relies on both employer and enrollee contributions.

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I ask the Committees to issue a favorable report on House Bill 188 with the consideration that enrollees should participate in cost-sharing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Elrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" and the last name "Elrich" clearly distinguishable.

Marc Elrich