

BILL: HB0534

BILL TITLE: Public Health - Healthy Maryland Program - Establishment

BILL SPONSOR: Del. Gabriel Acevero

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Favorable

March 9, 2021

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0534

Craig Collins-Young

Baltimore, Maryland

Honorable Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the committee:

I am a Baltimore City resident and I believe the state of health care in the United States is a disgrace.

It is a disgrace because our federal government is a disgrace. Both houses at the federal level are filled with members that are inept, corrupt, out of touch, misinformed, and/or morally bankrupt.

Because of this failure at the federal level, I believe we must, for now, ameliorate healthcare at the state level. That is why I support HB0534, a bill that would establish Healthy Maryland in order to provide comprehensive ***universal single-payer health coverage for every Maryland resident***.

Single-payer healthcare saves money by decreasing administrative costs, eliminating unnecessary expenses -- like large CEO salaries, advertising, profits, dividends, etc.-- and by enabling negotiations for pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and hospital rates.

At this point, all politicians have to know by now that the health insurance industry's sole reason for existence is to make a profit for its stockholders, and that the best way to maximize profits is to pay for as little actual health care as possible.

This is not the way to run a health system.

All Marylanders, regardless of race, income, or zip code deserve healthcare. It's a human right.

Maryland needs universal health coverage, and providing universal health care can only be accomplished through a single-payer system.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB0534.

Sincerely,

Craig Collins-Young
Maryland Voter
LD46