



BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 17, 2022

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

RE: HB 709 – Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies – SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my **SUPPORT** for **HB 709 – Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies**.

As introduced, this legislation will invest up to \$45 Million per year – primarily from available federal funds, including funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act or 2021 (ARPA) – toward a 5-year state subsidy program for those small businesses and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time equivalent employees. This investment will assist these employers and nonprofits that will allow them to provide their employees with access to health coverage through the Maryland Health Connection. This program will also invest \$3 Million toward necessary outreach programs and activities to inform and advise qualifying employers and nonprofits of this program's availability.

The economic and medical impact the COVID pandemic has had on these small businesses and nonprofits – and especially the impact it has had on their employees – has been substantial over the past two years. As structured, this program (which will “sunset” in 2029) will provide a significant opportunity for these smaller businesses and nonprofits to attract – and retain – employees, and to help keep those employees healthy

Your **FAVORABLE** vote on this legislation will help our small businesses and our nonprofits – mainstays in our communities – in their efforts toward overcoming this pandemic. This will also assist

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them to maintain and grow their operations and services, benefitting not only them, but the communities they serve and our constituents they employ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barry Glassman', written in a cursive style.

Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive