



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB0806 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health – Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 8, 2023

Bill Contact: Senator Shelly Hettleman

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several neighboring counties. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. SB0806 supports these goals by proposing to study different options for making health coverage affordable to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, through Medicaid, CHIP, and private coverage of Maryland Health Connection.

In 2022, the Health and Government Operations Committee took a bold step in ensuring that pregnant women have access to care for their unborn babies. The Healthy Babies Equity Act expands Medicaid to pregnant individuals who meet the normal requirements of the program regardless of immigration status. We know this will have an immediate positive impact on our communities.

SB0806 seeks to gather information to help us better serve our uninsured residents by comparing options for offering affordable healthcare coverage to Maryland residents who are ineligible for the Maryland Children's Health Program or qualified health plans through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange due to their immigration status.

SB0806 represents an important milestone in our journey towards creating a resilient healthcare system for all, especially communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by lack of care. This common-sense legislation is uncontroversial and aligns with Maryland's values of protecting our communities and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0806 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599