



**Testimony Before the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 551 – Service Year Option Program
By Vincent DeMarco, Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative**

February 22, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee, on behalf of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative, I am here to support, SB 551, Governor Wes Moore’s service year option program. We commend the Governor for devising this innovative way to help Marylanders service their communities, and in particular we appreciate very much that health care work is one of the three identified service options. Like all of you, we hear much about how people often cannot get the health care they need because of the health care workforce shortages in our state. We are very hopeful that this program will help remedy this problem and help us to reach our common goal of making sure that all Marylanders can get the health care services they need. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our individual organization, Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative, Inc., because we have not reviewed this legislation with our entire Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition.