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TESTIMONY ON SB365 - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

TO: Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica

My name is Ioana Stoica and I am a resident of District 21. I am submitting this testimony in support with amendments for SB365. I support the proposed amendment:

Section V - add a number A (5): "That provides State premium assistance and cost-sharing reduction subsidies for Qualified Residents that seek to attain the same level of health plan affordability and limit on out of pocket costs experienced by all other health plan purchasers on the exchange."

I write to you as a constituent, as an immigrant, and as a member of Oseh Shalom, a reconstructionist synagogue in Laurel, MD. My faith and my background both form the foundation for my beliefs that not only must we welcome those fleeing injustice, but we must stand for the principles we profess as a nation: our country is one that supposedly affords equal access and freedom for all. However, in practice, too many groups, including immigrants, are in fact not afforded the same rights as others.

Despite the deep contributions to Maryland that undocumented families have made to our state, over 275K people are ineligible for care through the marketplace. From working on the frontlines during the pandemic to paying over \$240 million in federal, state, and local taxes, our government must take steps to protect the health and safety of the immigrant community. Black and Latino residents become sicker, are hospitalized at higher rates, and die younger as they are forced to face life or death situations due to their exclusion from programs such as the Affordable Care Act. Everyone in Maryland faces the consequences of undocumented residents being denied healthcare.

To ensure our communities prosper and leave no one behind we must insure everyone with Access to Care. Please, stand up for the fundamental principle of dignity and healthcare for all people, regardless of the privileges or lack thereof that they were born into, and support this important legislation. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable with amendments report on SB365.**