



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 806

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health -
Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report
Senate Finance Committee
March 7, 2023

To: Honorable Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee
FROM: Anna Rubin, on behalf of Jews United for Justice (JUFJ)

Jews United for Justice is pleased to offer **a favorable testimony** in strong support of the Maryland SB 806-Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report. This legislation 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.

In 2022 this 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. SB 806 seeks to gather information to help us better serve our uninsured residents by comparing options for offering affordable healthcare coverage to State residents who are ineligible for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, or qualified health plans through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange due to the individual's immigration status.

The insistence that we behave with care, equity, and love toward the stranger appears 36 times in Torah; it is the most-repeated command in the entire Torah. Our sacred texts insist that we turn our own historical experiences of being outsiders in many foreign lands into compassion for those experiencing the same today. As Jews and as human beings, we are obligated to make sure that those of us who were not born in our community are as safe, and as healthy, as those of us who were.

This common-sense legislation is uncontentious and aligns Maryland with its values of protecting our communities and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care. Jews United for Justice urges the committee to provide a favorable report of Senate Bill 806.