

TESTIMONY OPPOSING SB806

MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AND MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – HEALTH CARE  
COVERAGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS - REPORT

Dear Senator Hettleman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 806 – “... Report.” I am a Facilitator for the Immigration Action Team of Indivisible of HoCo; I am an immigrant; a former medic in the U.S. Army; and a retired attorney. I respectfully oppose SB806.

SB806 requests a report on the cost to the State and potential benefits designs for offering insurance to uninsured immigrants. It is hard to argue against seeking further information. But, the information for implementation of benefits to immigrants already exists, if they are to parallel the benefits already provided to other residents. I fear that SB806 would serve as an excuse for others to postpone passage of SB365. SB365 aims to obtain ACA insurance for immigrants. There are approximately 110,000 immigrants lacking insurance in Maryland. These are individuals who benefit the State with their labor and taxes paid. Any emergency medical services they currently are able to obtain are costly to all of us, as they are insufficient to maintain a healthy population. Senator Hettleman, I admire your leadership on sponsoring SB365. I believe that proposing SB806 you may be causing unnecessary tension with SB365.

Respectfully yours,

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