



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 806

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for
Undocumented Immigrants - Report

Before the Senate Finance Committee

By Stephanie Klapper, Deputy Director, Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition

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Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 806. Special thank you to Senator Hettleman for sponsoring this important legislation. I am testifying on behalf of the [Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition](#) which is made up of over 300 faith, business, labor, community, and health care organizations across the state. Our mission is quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thanks to your leadership over 400,000 Marylanders have enrolled in health coverage since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and Maryland is also improving health equity through legislation like the 2021 Health Equity Resource Act. In 2022 this committee took a critical step forward through the Healthy Babies Equity Act which expands Medicaid to pregnant Marylanders and their babies during pregnancy and for a year postpartum regardless of immigration status who meet the normal requirements of the program.

Yet we still have more work to do. Six percent of Marylanders remain uninsured, and inequities by race and ethnicity persist. 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. 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. This legislation aligns Maryland with its values of protecting our communities and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care.

Thanks to your leadership, Maryland has one of the top five health care systems in the entire nation, and SB 806 will help us continue to lead. We urge a favorable report for SB 806.

Health Care for All! Coalition

