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### **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 363**

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health -  
Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 16, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Peña-Melynk, and Members of the Committee,

Latino Democrats of Prince George's County are pleased to offer **a favorable testimony** in strong support of the Maryland HB 363-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. HB363 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 common-sense legislation is uncontentious and aligns Maryland with its values of protecting our communities and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care. Latino Democrats of Prince George's County urges the committee to provide a favorable report of House Bill 363.**

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