



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB363

***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***

Franca Brilliant, Advocacy and Development Director, Nonprofit Montgomery

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

Nonprofit Montgomery is 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.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Franca Brilliant and I am the Advocacy and Development Director for Nonprofit Montgomery. support our nearly 200-member nonprofit organizations with technical assistance, training and resources, and advocacy on issues of importance to the nonprofit sector. HB363 represents an important milestone in Maryland's journey towards creating a resilient healthcare system; many of our members see on a daily basis how immigrants and communities of color have suffered from systemic inequities in healthcare.

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. Nonprofit Montgomery urges the committee to provide a favorable report of House Bill 363.