



**Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Testimony on:** HB0107 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 16, 2023

**Bill Contact:** Delegate Robbyn Lewis

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several neighboring counties. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. HB0107 supports these goals by proposing to invest \$5 million per year into a five-year outreach program to help small employers and their employees obtain information that would facilitate enrollment in health insurance programs.

The outreach proposed in HB0107 will include education and training regarding existing coverage options, enrolling in coverage through Maryland Health Connection, the state's online insurance marketplace, as well as options for employer-sponsored plans both on- and off- exchange.

Increasing the number of Maryland residents who have health insurance by establishing the marketing and outreach program mandated by the legislation will both help to reduce the overall uninsured rate in the state and support Maryland's small employers by ensuring that their employees have the health insurance coverage they need to remain healthy and productive.

Establishment of the program will also promote health equity. Small businesses are more likely than large businesses to be owned by people of color and Maryland has the highest rate per-capita of businesses owned by people of color in the nation.

For all these reasons, DTMG strongly supports HB0107 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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