



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0363

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

**House Health and Government Operations Committee
FAVORABLE**

TO: Honorable Chair Peña-Melynk, and Members of the Committee,

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: February 16, 2023

The Episcopal Church supports comprehensive health care and recognizes the need for universal and equitable access for all. General Convention urges Episcopalians to advocate for adequate health care, along with nutrition and housing, as human rights that should be provided to all those residing in our nation, including immigrants, undocumented or otherwise. This advocacy on a number of healthcare policy asks is viewed as a Church ministry and as a way to promote healthy American communities.

The Diocese of Maryland 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. 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.

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.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report