

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
and Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 0363 Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants-Report- **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee,

As you know, HB0363 requires MD Health Benefit Exchange and the MD Dept. of Health to develop a report comparing options for affordable health care coverage for undocumented immigrants. I urge your opposition to HB 0363 for the following reasons:

- ❖ Developing such a report requires time and energy that could be devoted to designing ways to provide affordable health care coverage to legal residents of MD. There are many legal residents of MD that currently are suffering from the lack of finances to afford proper health care and I feel that the time and energy used for this proposed report could be better utilized in this manner rather than for undocumented immigrants.
- ❖ The development of such report will require money in the form of workers' salary. This money could be used to either 1) compensate employee(s) to develop options for legal MD residents, or 2) fund a program to provide affordable health care coverage to legal MD residents.
- ❖ Offering affordable health care coverage to undocumented MD residents is NOT a responsibility that should be assumed by the state of MD. Undocumented residents are residing here illegally and therefore, have NO benefits, especially financial. Therefore, there is NO NEED for this report!
- ❖ It's a waste of taxpayer dollars.

For the above reasons, I urge you to reconsider and return an UNFAVORABLE report for HB0363.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price (ACRWC)
Westernport, MD