



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill:	HB 363 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report
Hearing Date:	February 16, 2023
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 363 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health – Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants – Report*.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we provide somatic, behavioral, and oral health services to underserved communities. Many of our health centers have a high concentration of patients who are immigrants. These patients face significant barriers to obtaining health care as they are far more likely to be uninsured. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 25% of legal immigrants and 46% of undocumented immigrants are uninsured.ⁱ

Maryland made progress recently by extending Medicaid coverage to pregnant individuals who were not eligible because of immigration status. This legislation will provide options for further closing the gaps.

We would request one amendment to clarify that the study would also include dental coverage for immigrants:

On page 1 in line 24, insert “stand alone dental plans” after “qualified health plans”.

We ask for a favorable report with this amendment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/fact-sheet/health-coverage-and-care-of-immigrants/>