



## **SEIU Maryland & DC State Council**

1410 Bush Street, Suite F  
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### **Testimony in FAVOR of HB 333 Hospitals – Financial Assistance – Medical Bill Reimbursement Process**

House Health and Government Operations Committee  
February 28, 2023  
1:00 PM

Presented by: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

We urge a **FAVORABLE Report on HB 333**

Among the two million SEIU members across the country approximately one million are health care providers and tens of thousands are low-wage workers who may qualify for free care.

We applaud Delegate Charkoudian for introducing this legislation as well as the other members of the House who have supported legislative action to address this issue.

You may have been shocked when you learned of the financial practices of many of our hospitals who have used aggressive tactics in pursuit of payments from patients who they knew, or should have known, were entitled to free care. Recently, the New York Times did an extensive story on these practices – which are not limited to the usual excuses of “mistakes were made” or “there were a few bad apples”. This practice of billing and aggressively collecting from patients who are entitled to free care is widespread. This legislation will go a long way to stopping these practices.

Thank you.

We ask a **FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB 333.**