



TESTIMONY FOR SB0806

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0806 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Everyone should have health care. The price for health care services and medications is outrageously high. Without having basic health care, simple illnesses go unchecked and because individuals without health care do not see a doctor except in emergencies, and those illnesses can force the individual into bankruptcy. In many cases, just getting lifesaving medicine is a choice between eating and paying rent, and getting the medicine.

There are many, many people in Maryland who do not have healthcare. Many of them are immigrants and are unable to get healthcare due to their immigration status. This bill 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 is information that we need to better serve the immigrants that we welcome into the state, and who help support our economy. We support the bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.