

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 328**

Hospitals - Financial Assistance Policies - Revisions

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 14, 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison,  
and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Spillane and I live in Hyattsville. I am  
testifying in support of HB 328.

As you know, nonprofit hospitals in Maryland are required  
to provide free and reduced cost care to income-eligible  
patients as a condition of their tax-exempt status. Yet  
many hospitals have high rates of charity care denial —  
even though Maryland’s global budgeting provides the  
funding required to provide this charity care.

It is unacceptable for hospitals with these high charity care  
denial rates to deny access to affordable care on the basis  
where one becomes ill or has an emergency. Eliminating  
asset tests and service area boundaries for income  
eligible patients will go far to correct inequitable outcomes  
and disparities. The costs to the hospitals for increased  
use of charity care is already built into the hospitals rates  
so they can afford these changes.

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