



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HB 1082: Health Insurance- Individual Market Stabilization- Establishment of the State-Based Health Insurance Subsidies Program

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes that every Maryland resident should have access to affordable, equitable, quality health care.

The League supports House Bill 1082, which would establish a state-based health insurance subsidies program to mitigate the impact of a future reduction in federal marketplace premium tax credits. Thus, regardless of changes in federal subsidies, a state-based program would help provide assistance so that more Marylanders could continue to get the health care they need.

Passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 enabled over 600,000 previously uninsured Marylanders to gain access to health care through the state's adoption of Medicaid expansion or by enrolling in an affordable ACA Qualified Health Plan available on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. But due to recent developments in Congress and the new administration, efforts may be made to weaken or irrevocably compromise the fundamental principles of the ACA, resulting in large-scale loss of affordable health coverage. **Passage of HB 1082 will help Marylanders enroll in and keep their health care coverage, assuring that our healthcare system is equitable and works for all.**

The League of Women Voters of Maryland urges the committee to give a favorable report to House Bill 1082.