



TESTIMONY FOR HB1336

Hospitals - Financial Assistance - Medical Bill Reimbursement

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Cullison

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1336 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are concerned about the financial burden on hospital patients who were eligible for free care but still paid out-of-pocket costs! Many patients who qualified for free care under existing laws and regulations are not being reimbursed for their expenses, leading to financial strain and inequity.

The bill mandates that hospitals determine the eligibility of patients for refunds and provide refunds to those who meet the criteria going back to 2017. Additionally, the bill requires hospitals to conduct marketing campaigns to inform patients about their eligibility for refunds and modifies the process the Health Services Cost Review Commission must develop for identifying and reimbursing eligible patients.

By ensuring that eligible patients receive refunds for out-of-pocket costs, HB1336 alleviates financial stress and promotes fairness in the healthcare system. It also enhances transparency and accountability within hospitals, ensuring that patients are aware of their rights and entitlements. Overall, this bill aims to create a more equitable and supportive healthcare environment for all Marylanders

Therefore, the Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a FAVORABLE report in committee.