

HB0297_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0297 - FAVORABLE

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program - Sunset Repeal

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0297, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program - Sunset Repeal

The goal of this bill is to extend a popular state subsidy program to recruit more young adults into the insurance pool

According to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the state's insurance marketplace under the Affordable Care Act, young adults are one of the largest groups of people in the state who do not have health insurance.

"We really need that group for the insurance pool," Feldman said. "These are folks who think they're going to live forever, never get sick. And in insurance, the way it works is you need young healthy people to bring down the cost for everybody else." ¹

The bill will rename the State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program to be the State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Program to better reflect its purpose. It will repeal the termination date of certain provisions of law that establish and govern the funding for the Program.

The health of the community is and will be affected by the state of health of each and every member of the community. By ensuring that as many young people as possible have the necessary health insurance coverage we can protect their health, and by extension the health of everyone around them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0297.

¹ <https://marylandmatters.org/2024/11/12/lawmakers-call-to-extend-subsidy-that-reduces-health-care-costs-for-young-adults/>

