



## TESTIMONY For HB0297

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

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Kerr

**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 HB0297 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.

The original Health Benefit Exchange Fund that became law in 2021 had a pilot program that would help young adults, between 18 and 41 years of age and making 133% to 400% below poverty level to, pay for insurance premiums. This is good for the state, because we want young people to participate in our insurance plans since they are generally in good health. Secondly, it helps young people who do need emergency care afford it without going broke.

This bill would make the pilot program permanent and provide funding for it. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.