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MAYOR

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**SB 98**

January 15, 2020

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 98 – Health Insurance - Technical Correction and Required Conformity With Federal Law

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 98. SB 98 conforms state law to federal law by providing for additional open enrollment periods for those who made "a permanent move and who had coverage for prenatal care or services or had medically needy coverage."

Access to health care is a critical component of ensuring positive health outcomes for Baltimore City residents. Health insurance often poses a barrier to entry for residents seeking health care, with a lack of insurance often putting access to high-quality care out of reach of residents in need. By conforming state law to federal law under this bill, fewer residents will face lapses in coverage and resulting challenges accessing care.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 98.

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