



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**Senate Bill 0738– Health Care Providers and Health Benefits Plan –  
Discrimination in Provision of Services  
Senate Finance Committee – February 26,2020  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2020 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with more than 600 politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of SB0738. This bill would codify section 1557, the anti-discriminatory section of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into state law and add additional protected classes of individuals. This would ensure that no Marylander would be denied medical services or otherwise discriminated against by a hospital or related institution or insurance plan because of their race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or disability.

Ensuring that all Marylanders have access to an affordable, functioning health care system regardless of the status of the ACA at the Federal level is critical to the health care of over 400,000 Marylanders who are currently covered under the ACA, as well as to other residents. With uncertain federal support of the ACA, it is imperative that Maryland enacts legislation that ensures that its citizens are not discriminated against in the provision of healthcare.

The provision of affordable health care to all of Maryland citizens is essential to public health, and to the state's economy. No one should be denied necessary medical treatment or insurance because of their race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or disability.

WDC urges Maryland to join the five other states who have enacted legislation to ensure that the ACA protections become part of state law.

**We ask for your support for SB0738 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

Respectfully,

Diana Conway  
President