



330 N. Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 576-1400  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland)

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**Title:** Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Establishment of a State-Based Health Insurance Subsidy Program  
**Bill:** House Bill 196  
**Date:** February 20, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 196 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Establishment of a State-Based Insurance Subsidy Program*. The bill would authorize the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to implement a state-based subsidy to lower premium costs if funds are available.

PPM has been a strong supporter of expanding access to health insurance under the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. While federal subsidies and our reinsurance program have helped make insurance more affordable, the cost of insurance still remains out-of-reach for some individuals and families. This legislation will help Maryland close the gap in the rates of the uninsured. With any available funding, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange can target state subsidy support where it will have the most impact.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.