



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 930 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Funding for Small Business Insurance Subsidies and Outreach

TO: Chair Shane E. Pendergrass and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Chris Hager, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

DATE: February 20, 2020

I am writing on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) in support of HB 930 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Funding for Small Business Insurance Subsidies and Outreach.

Since its inception, UULM-MD has worked to achieve universal access to affordable, quality healthcare. Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of each person and support the availability of quality, affordable healthcare to all. Many residents of Maryland work in small businesses and receive their healthcare through their employers. UULM-MD previously supported the Working Families and Small Business Health Care Coverage Act of 2007 which created healthcare grants to help small businesses provide benefits to their employees.

Good quality healthcare is expensive and small businesses need to be encouraged to provide coverage to employees. By a wide margin, Maryland voters support helping small business owners provide health care coverage for their workers. The current proposed legislation includes outreach by Maryland Health Benefit Exchange so small business know about the available subsidies. The funding would help small businesses buy coverage and compete for the highest quality employees. They and their employees should not be penalized because they are small businesses.

Please support this legislation. We urge a favorable report.

Chris Hager

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