

**To: Senate Finance Committee**

**From:** Claude Guillemard, 9 Edgemoor Road, Timonium MD 21093

**Re:** Medical Debt Protection Act (HB565/SB514)

**Date:** February 23, 2021

I respectfully write to the Senate Finance Committee to express in the strongest terms my support of SB 514.

An employee at Johns Hopkins, I was shocked when I read the report (attached) on the hospital practice of suing low-income patients for less than \$1000.

It turns out that the Hopkins hospital is not extending their ‘charity care’ to all eligible patients, as it should in exchange of the huge tax breaks they receive.

I have seen and participated in many events and actions to bring this issue to the administration in the past few years – but to no avail.

Only Maryland-wide legislation will help fix this issue of socio-economic discrimination: this practice is destroying families, neighbors, and even Hopkins employees themselves (some are sued by their own work place).

Please intervene in this pervasive issue so that our hospitals can truly serve everyone and support the Medical Debt Protection Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claude Guillemard

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