



## Councilperson Michele Gregory

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My name is Michele Gregory and I am the council member for District 4 of the City of Salisbury, Maryland.

My family has had more than our fair share of medical emergencies, and we've been fortunate enough that my husband's employer provides a means to purchase health insurance. In recent years, however, my husband's health has taken some big hits that will be with him for the rest of his life. These debilitating health issues have been a struggle, as has the knowledge that if he were to stop working because of his disabilities, we would lose our health coverage for the entire family, each of whom has their own disabilities and relies on frequent doctor or specialist visits and medications.

I represent a district filled with people facing these same issues. Many work jobs that do not even offer health insurance, and when they do, the coverage costs are out of reach for most. Between plan premiums that run in the hundreds of dollars, to deductibles, some as much as \$10,000, it's still far out of reach for too many.

This bill would also help municipalities cut costs. Salisbury offers employees health coverage, and if the state were to create a universal health coverage plan, that burden would be lifted from our city, and many others around the state.

A state single-payer system would resolve the health care and employment barrier, and "produce savings of about 18 percent" according to researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A state single-payer system would:

- Shrink net health care spending for middle income families between 2.6 – 9.1%
- Save employers with fewer than 500 employees between 5.7 and 22% in healthcare costs as a share of payroll
- Benefit small businesses who are already providing healthcare to their workers
- Target low income communities and reduce challenges faced by minorities

If we've learned anything during this pandemic, it's that healthcare is a human right, and we as community leaders are tasked with providing care for all people. Creating this commission is a moral imperative for our state.

Sincerely,



Michele Gregory  
Salisbury City Council, District 4