

Bill No.: HB 534

Bill Name: Healthy Maryland Program

You or your organization's name: Kristian Berhost

Support or oppose? Support

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I visited my girlfriend at her apartment building one Saturday afternoon. I entered the elevator and held the door open for a woman and her two small dogs, which were behaving aggressively. One of her dogs lunged at me and bit me in my right leg, it hurt, and I started to bleed. My girlfriend and I treated the situation as an emergency, and we went to the closest Medstar clinic for immediate treatment because the Veteran's Health Administration hospital, where I typically get treatment, was closed. The Medstar physician cleaned my wound, administered a tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (TDAP) shot, and sent me home. Three months later, Medstar mailed me a \$480 bill for the treatment and demanded payment as soon as possible. I went to the Veterans' Health Administration for assistance but they denied me because they didn't consider it an emergency. I also tried to contact the dog-owner, but I couldn't reach her. I paid the bill out of pocket; however, the service seemed overpriced and it required several hours of my personal time to resolve it. The process made me feel alienated, frustrated, and disappointed and it put an unnecessary burden on me. A single-payer healthcare system would have helped me because it would have set the treatment price and paid for the bill.