

Amy Waychoff
HB 534
Health and Government Operations
Opposed

March 11, 2021

My name is Amy Waychoff, and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 33 years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 534. I oppose this bill for a number of reasons, one of which is the extreme cost to the citizens of Maryland. When President Barack Obama promised that the Affordable Care Act would not take away our health plans and our doctors, that turned out to be false. When he promised it would reduce families' health care costs, the opposite happened. Premiums and deductibles skyrocketed. My family's premiums went up 40 percent in just one year, and our deductibles are now huge. Costs for the "Medicare for All" bills in Congress are prohibitive. Even the Urban Institute estimated that a single-payer program would cost the federal government *\$34 trillion* over ten years. Such a program at the state level would be similarly cost-prohibitive. There is also considerable evidence that single-payer programs lead to rationing of health care. In Britain, for example, millions of patients are on waiting lists for critical treatments, including cancer surgery.

I also oppose the provision in HB 534 that would cover illegal aliens. People who are thwarting our nation's laws should not receive benefits at the expense of taxes paid by citizens and legal immigrants.

For all of these reasons, I therefore strongly oppose HB 534.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff
4511 Amherst Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
LD 18
waychoff@comcast.net