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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 780 -- Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State – Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program

**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2021

**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *House Bill 780 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange -- State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program*. This bill would establish a subsidy program, focusing on young adults (18-34), the largest cohort of uninsured individuals, to encourage this population to enroll in health insurance and improve the overall uninsured rate in Maryland.

As an established and trusted community reproductive health care provider, serving Marylanders for more than 90 years and counting, we believe that cost and access should be no barrier to young adults who require health care. Incentivizing young adults to enroll in health insurance is critical for ongoing care, preventative care, and bettering the overall health of our state’s population.

We served on the Individual Subsidy Workgroup, as established by 2020 legislation. The workgroup’s final report stated that costs were the greatest barrier for young adults in obtaining medical care. Health insurance subsidies for young adults will encourage those aged between 18 and 34 to receive regular health check-ups and take preventative measures to avoid more expensive and serious health conditions later in life.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a favorable report. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you should have any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott, our public policy and governmental affairs consultant, at (443) 923-3443 or [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).