

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass- Chair
And Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB 0470-Public Health – Commission on Universal Health Care
HB 0534- Public Health – Healthy Maryland Program – Establishment OPPOSE

HB 0534 requires government funding, of which, the fiscal note is not yet available, but deemed a huge cost. The premium costs for such coverage will be greatly inflated to cover these costs.

The establishment of single-payer health care (HB 0470) and the practice thereof (HB 0534), is not necessarily as appealing as it sounds. Although single-payer healthcare has the ability to force down costs, it does this by limiting payments to providers and dictating what sorts of treatments will be allowed. Thus, as experienced under the Obama Administration, certain procedures will not be covered and therefore, not allowed to be performed.

Wait times for treatment under single-payer healthcare are longer, and the quality, due to lack of competition and accountability, is greatly decreased.

HB 5034 prohibits competition in core services, providers lack an economic incentive to improve the quality of care provided.

Under HB 5034 Medicare, Medicaid, MCHiP and every other federal program related to health care will be forced to participate. This is not a desirable, nor democratic health plan.

Providing single-payer healthcare coverage for all, will increase premiums for all.

Please vote for an UNFAVORABLE REPORT for HB 0470 AND HB 0534.

Sincerely,
Sarah Reichert-Price
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