

**Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore
and Vicinity (BMNCBV)**

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB728

Access to Care Act
Senate Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. Sandra Conner

**President Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore & Vicinity (BMNCBV)
March 2, 2022**

Dear Members of the Committee:

BMNCBV is submitting this testimony in support for SB728, Access to Care Act, which would open up the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (ACA Coverage) to all Marylanders who meet the regular ACA eligibility, regardless of immigration status. This bill would also create a subsidy program with the funds necessary to cover new applicants.

BMNCBV is an organization that strives to equip faith leaders with resources to do effective health ministries to keep themselves and the people they serve healthy and out of the hospital. We continually seek opportunities to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities.

We acknowledge that Maryland has some of the best health systems in the country; however, we believe there is still a need to make greater investments to improve access to health coverage and inequities. If SB728 passes, it can reduce the number of undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for care through the Maryland Health Exchange, as well as improve the quality healthcare for all, in particular, Black and Latino residents, who are confronted with greater health challenges such as diabetes, and hypertension, that often lead to higher hospitalization rates, and more deadly situations due to their exclusion in programs such as the Affordable Care Act.

BMNCBV will make it one of our top priorities for the 2022 Maryland General Assembly session. We pray that our legislators will heed our call. We thank you in advance for your actions towards SB728

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