



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1035 – *Health Insurance – Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care Act)*

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1035.

House Bill 1035 seeks to allow all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, to participate in Maryland's Health Benefit Exchange if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill also creates a qualified resident state subsidy program, which would make qualified health plans on the exchange affordable for low-income populations. To implement the proposed eligibility requirements, the State would be required to submit a state innovation waiver to receive federal approval in accordance with the ACA.

The ACA, since its inception has successfully enabled many Marylanders to gain access to affordable healthcare. However, Maryland's undocumented community, despite their contribution to Maryland's economy, are currently ineligible to purchase coverage through the marketplace. As providers who serve this community regardless of payment status, there is clear evidence that this population suffers from lack of access to needed health care services and which results in higher hospitalization rates and poor health outcomes that not only negatively impact these individuals but also increase health care costs for the State overall. Passage of House Bill 1035 will not only dramatically increase access to affordable coverage for one of Maryland's most vulnerable populations but will also lower overall health care costs and individual market premiums for all Marylanders. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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