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**BILL NO.:**           **House Bill 1035**

**TITLE:**             Health Insurance – Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program  
(Access to Care Act)

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Peña-Melnyk

**COMMITTEE:**      Health and Government Operations

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             March 3, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1035 – Health Insurance – Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care Act). This legislation would establish and implement the Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic identified great inequity and inaccessibility in the healthcare system particularly within immigrant communities who saw disproportionate impacts from this virus. In response, officials at every level of government stepped up to amend many of the legislative barriers to care, including the expansion of rules for telehealth and granting more healthcare providers the ability to administer vaccinations. These provisions allowed many to access healthcare in ways they were never able to before. It is vital that leaders continue to remove barriers to necessary and vital healthcare services.

This legislation would establish a Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund to provide qualified residents, regardless of immigration status, with financial assistance for obtaining health care coverage. By engaging in programming that seeks to reduce the cost of healthcare for all communities, HB 1035 will provide coverage to the residents a time when access to care has never been more critical.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1035. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).