

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill Number: House Bill 1035

Title: Health Insurance - Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care Act)

Hearing: March 3, 2022

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *HB 1035 - Health Insurance - Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care Act)*.

As an established and trusted community reproductive health care provider, serving Marylanders for nearly 95 years, PPM believes that all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, deserve access to basic health coverage. This bill would open 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 enrollees.

All or part of PPM's services—services that include contraception options and counseling, STI testing, and wellness exams—are covered by every plan on the exchange. Unfortunately, undocumented patients are not currently eligible for coverage by the Maryland Health Benefit exchange and are forced to pay entirely out-of-pocket for basic healthcare services. As a safety net health care provider, it is crucial to PPM that *everyone* has access to compassionate, respectful reproductive health care, no matter what. Cost and immigration status should not be barriers to accessing these essential services.

We urge the committee to support this legislation and support healthcare access for undocumented Marylanders. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.