



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0588

### Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Cullison

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0588 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Everyone should have health care. The price for health care services and medications is outrageously high. Without having basic health care, simple illnesses go unchecked and because individuals without health care do not see a doctor except in emergencies, those illnesses can force the individual into bankruptcy. In many cases, just getting lifesaving medicine is a choice between eating and paying rent, and getting the medicine.

This bill 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 enrollees.

Our members think this bill is more than necessary. It is potentially life-saving for many residents of the state. We support the bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.