



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 1, 2023

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 601, *Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program – Sunset Repeal*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 601, *Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program – Sunset Repeal*. Senate Bill 601 removes the sunset and piloting provision of the State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program to make the Program and its funding permanent, which will enable tens of thousands of Marylanders under age 35 to continue to access the subsidies provided by the Program to purchase health insurance through the State's Health Benefit Exchange.

According to Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) in 2022 about 45,000 young Marylanders used these subsidies to enroll in insurance coverage, including over 17,000 who enrolled through MHBE for the first time. In a typical year, nearly twice as many Montgomery County residents enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through MHBE as any other county- I support the sunset repeal for the subsidy program so that the youngest enrollees can continue to receive financial support to make health insurance affordable. The subsidies provided by the Program have reduced the cost of premiums for recipients by an average of 34%.

Montgomery County has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring residents who are not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or employer-sponsored coverage have access to health care through tremendous investment of County funds in the provision of health care services. I encourage the State to continue its commitment to investing in health care access for young Marylanders who are also ineligible for Medicaid, Medicare, and employer-sponsored coverage by issuing a favorable report on Senate Bill 601 so the Program subsidies will be available for years to come.

cc: Members of the Finance Committee