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Maryland Nonprofits supports Senate Bill 601 to extend the state's current program of assistance for young adults to obtain individual health insurance.

Improved health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced disparities in healthcare are goals that are of interest to Maryland's nonprofit community, and especially to those nonprofit organizations whose missions relate to health, behavioral health and human services.

- This bill will help the qualifying employees and clients of nonprofit organizations to obtain quality, affordable health coverage.
- By facilitating access to primary and preventive care, it will improve health outcomes.
- By making coverage for young adults more affordable and bringing more healthy people into the individual health insurance market, it will also help to stabilize premiums within the market.
- The bill will reduce racial disparities in health coverage. Young Adult Subsidy recipients, compared to young adult enrollees ineligible for the subsidy, are more likely to be Hispanic (14% vs. 9%), Black/African American (22% vs. 16%), and female (57% vs. 54%).
- And finally, the bill will help address the looming Medicaid benefit "cliff." Throughout the COVID-19 health emergency, Medicaid has not terminated enrollees. 22,000 young adults are now at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage. The availability of the incentive that this bill extends will be key to keeping young adults enrolled in coverage as Medicaid terminations resume in Spring 2023.

For these reasons, **Maryland Nonprofits respectfully requests a FAVORABLE report on SB 601.**

Maryland Nonprofits is the statewide network of all nonprofits, with more than 1,700 member organizations across the state. Nonprofit organizations employ 12.9% of the state's private sector workforce – more than any other sector except retail.