



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0806

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report

Requiring the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the Maryland Department of Health to develop a report comparing options for offering affordable health care coverage to State residents who are ineligible for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, or qualified health plans due to the individuals' immigration status

FAVORABLE

DATE: March 7, 2023

TO: Chair Melony Griffith, Vice Chair Katherine Klausmeir, and members of Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Lynn Mortoro, Member, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: March 7, 2023

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeir and members of the Senate Finance Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for requiring a report to be done to study affordable health care options for immigrant residents of our state.

I feel that it is vital to serve all people residing in our state, new and longer term residents. It is to all of our benefit to assist them in finding proper care and being able to pay for it. They are starting new lives and have many obstacles to overcome. Caring for themselves and families in times of illness as well as prevention should not be one of them.

The Church supports comprehensive health care and recognizes the need for universal and equitable access for all. General Convention urges Episcopalians to advocate for adequate health care, along with nutrition and housing, as human rights that should be provided to all those residing in our nation. This advocacy on a number of healthcare policy asks is viewed as a Church ministry and as a way to promote healthy American communities.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a **Favorable** report