

SB404/HB333_ClaireLanders_FAV
Hearing: Feb. 23, 2023

Testimony on SB404/HB333
Hospitals - Financial Assistance - Medical Bill Reimbursement
Position: FAVORABLE

To Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee;
To Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee:

My name is Claire Landers, a Marylander residing in Baltimore County, District 11. Last year my daughter underwent medical treatment that required numerous doctor consults, MRIs, sonograms and a procedure administered within a hospital that required anesthesia. This journey was stressful on many levels for my family. We were responsible for some out-of-pocket fees even though we are fortunate to have health insurance. I cannot imagine being a mother on a limited income whose child required this level of in-hospital medical care and then facing bills (and collection process) from a hospital that had already received payment!

We are duly proud that Maryland is home to first-class hospitals that deliver high-quality care to people who travel from out of state and from all over the world to receive treatment. So it is unconscionable that hospitals were sending bills and collecting payments from patients who had qualified for free medical care within Maryland's vaunted health care system. **It is imperative that patients who paid these illegally generated hospital bills be made financially whole as soon as possible by a refund process that maintains patient privacy, dignity and lends appropriate support from the Office of the Attorney General.**

I respectfully ask you, as Maryland's elected representatives, to act with urgency to move SB404/HB333 forward with a favorable report.