

February 21, 2023  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB0588- POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**  
**Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)**

**TO:** Chair Pena-Melnyk and the Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Daniel Ring

**My name is Daniel Ring. I am a resident of District 19. I am submitting this testimony in support of Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**

As a teacher of adolescent English learners, I know the detrimental impact on families and children when people don't have access to health insurance. I have seen students drop out of school in order to work to pay for medical treatments for their undocumented relatives. I have seen sick children too fearful to go to the hospital or doctor because of immigration status. And I've seen kids with normal childhood issues have those issues neglected, leading to a worsening situation, all because they don't have access to insurance due to their immigration status.

It is imperative that all Marylanders have the right to access quality health insurance. How does it make sense that the undocumented worker preparing your food can't get reasonable health insurance? How does it make sense that people are denied insurance coverage by the government plans simply because of where and when they were born? It doesn't. As we have seen from the pandemic, it doesn't matter who you are or where you are from, because health issues affect us all in society. We must do our best to make sure that all Marylanders can purchase insurance from the healthcare exchange, regardless of immigration status.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report with amendments on HB0588.**