



Chase Brexton Health Care

Mt. Vernon Center • 1111 North Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410.837.2050 • chasebrexton.org

February 16, 2023

Patrick Mutch and Aya Shuman of Chase Brexton Health Care
Baltimore, MD 21201

TESTIMONY ON SB#0806/HB#0363-POSITION FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Patrick Mutch and Aya Shuman of Chase Brexton Health Care

Our names are Patrick Mutch (CEO) and Aya Shuman (Executive Director, Institute for EDI) of Chase Brexton Health Care (located in Districts 40, 13, 10, 32, 37B). We are submitting this testimony in support of **SB#0806/HB#0363**, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants.

Established in 1978 as a gay men's health clinic, Chase Brexton Health Care has grown to become a Federally Qualified Health Center serving all patients and addressing health inequities among LGBTQ, African American, Hispanic, and all underserved populations. Over 40,000 patients depend on Chase Brexton annually for their health care at five health centers across Maryland. We have remained committed to providing compassionate and integrated high quality health care through an array of outpatient services that include pediatric and adult primary care, behavioral health, substance use, psychiatry, dental, Ob/Gyn, pharmacy, LGBTQ care, and social work. No patient is denied care because of financial or insured status.

Six percent of Marylanders (approximately 250,000 people) are uninsured. Chase Brexton provides care to over 11,000 patients who identify as Hispanic, many of whom are uninsured and would benefit from the following coverage.

- Auto-enrollment for uninsured Marylanders who qualify for free or very low-cost coverage (with an option to opt-out)
- Expanded insurance subsidies for individuals and small businesses; and
- Removal of immigration status as a barrier to coverage

We are confident that these objectives will increase healthcare access, alleviate financial burdens, and expand health equity efforts to our patients and other Marylanders most in need. Our support for this bill comes with great excitement as we continue the work of our very special mission. We respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on **SB#0806/HB#0363**.

To provide compassionate and integrated high quality health care that honors diversity,
addresses health inequities, and advances wellness in the communities we serve.

We are committed to being trustworthy and reliable and to authentically living our values:

Respect • Compassion • Patient-Focused Care • Innovation




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Sincerely,

Patrick Mutch
President and Chief Executive Officer
Chase Brexton Health Care

Aya Shuman
Executive Director, Institute for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
Chase Brexton Health Care



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