



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 806 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care and Dental Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report

Hearing Date: March 30, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 806 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care and Dental Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report*.

As a network of federally qualified health centers, we provide somatic, behavioral, and oral health services to underserved communities. Many of our health centers have a high concentration of patients who are immigrants. These patients face significant barriers to obtaining health care as they are far more likely to be uninsured. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 25% of legal immigrants and 46% of undocumented immigrants are uninsured.ⁱ

Maryland made progress recently by extending Medicaid coverage to pregnant individuals who were not eligible because of immigration status. This legislation will provide options for further closing the gaps.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/fact-sheet/health-coverage-and-care-of-immigrants/>