

Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. I am a resident of District 23. I am testifying in support of House Bill 588.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly wisely enacted the Healthy Babies Equity Act that extended Medicaid coverage for prenatal and postpartum care to mothers and babies regardless of immigration status that dramatically increases survival rates and prevents long-term complications for the mother and baby. Now, we need to expand Medicaid coverage to all income-eligible families, not just mothers and their babies, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

As the recent pandemic demonstrated, the health of all of us is connected. Only when everyone has access to healthcare can all of us and our families be safe. And ensuring that everyone has health care coverage will, in the long run, be of economic benefit to our community.

Although the Affordable Care Act has allowed nearly 30 million people to gain access to affordable health care, 275,000 undocumented immigrants, despite contributing millions in state, local and Federal taxes, are ineligible for care through the Maryland Health Exchange. Other states have established programs to extend coverage to immigrants. Now it's Maryland's turn.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of HB0588.

I appreciate your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Kronser  
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