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TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair and
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

RE: SB601 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult
Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program – Sunset Extension: **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General, Health Education and Advocacy Unit, writes in support of Senate Bill 601 which, as amended, extends the sunset provision of the Young Adult Subsidy Pilot Program established by HB780/SB729 during the 2021 session of the General Assembly. The 2021 legislation authorized the young adult subsidy as a pilot program for calendar years 2022 and 2023 and funded it with a health insurance provider fee assessment. SB601, originally drafted as a repeal of the sunset provision, also directs the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the Maryland Insurance Administration to conduct a study of available subsidies and consider whether the State's §1332 waiver should be amended, and make recommendations to the General Assembly on an approach that would maximize federal pass-through funds while having the largest impact on reducing the uninsured rate.

The HEAU supports continuing Maryland's efforts to build health equity and improve access to affordable and appropriate healthcare, as recommended by the Office of the Attorney General's COVID 19 Access to Justice Task Force. We therefore respectfully request the Committee's favorable report for SB601.