



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0329**

Public Health - Commission on Universal Health Care

Establishing the Commission on Universal Health Care to develop a plan for the State, by July 1, 2026, to establish a universal health care program to provide health benefits to all residents of the State through a single-payer system

**FAVORABLE**

**DATE March 14, 2023**

**TO:** Chair Delegate Josline A Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and all members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

**FROM:** Lynn Mortoro, Member, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

**DATE:** March 14, 2023

Chair Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give testimony in support of a commission on Universal Health Care.

I personally am very much in support of Universal Health Coverage. As a retired nurse, during the course of my career, I had the opportunity to care for many people with little to no resources for help. I always felt that if they had better access to care, their diabetes would not be out of control, their blood pressure would be within safe limits and their cancers could have been caught at an earlier stage which would have enabled them to live longer and more productive lives instead of dying earlier than they might have.

The Episcopal Church supports comprehensive health care and recognizes the need for universal and equitable access for all. General Convention urges Episcopalians to advocate for adequate health care, along with nutrition and housing, as human rights that should be provided to all those residing in our nation, including veterans. This advocacy on a number of healthcare policy asks is viewed as a Church ministry and as a way to promote healthy American communities.

Universal Health Care for all would add so much to our society. We would save money, lives and build community. All wonderful gains. o

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report