

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 814

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot
Program – Sunset Repeal

Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee

By: Sarah Bur

February 23, 2023

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 814 which would remove the sunset on the State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Program. I am the parent of a 27 year-old, Devin Gillespie, who benefitted from the subsidy program. Devin has a chronic health condition and makes \$15 per hour as a cook. While \$15 is a living wage it is tough to live on, with rent taking up half his income. The health insurance subsidy made Devin's health insurance completely affordable. He currently pays \$55 per month for an excellent HMO plan which makes doctor's visits and medication affordable. This brings us all peace of mind, as health coverage is extremely important. Lower income young adults need affordable health insurance. Please give HB 814 a favorable report and end the sunset on the Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies program.

Sarah Bur, Baltimore City