



Testimony on SB365/HB588
Access to Care Act of 2023
Position: Favorable with Amendments¹

To Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee; Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee,

My name is Teneia Wells and I am a healthcare worker at a long-term care facility in Baltimore County. I'm a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the country, with over 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington DC. Our union supports SB365 – Access to Care Act – and we urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report. This legislation will ensure immigration status is not a barrier for Marylanders to accessing healthcare and will create a subsidy program so healthcare can be more affordable.

Medicare coverage is important regardless of citizenship, humanitarian status or circumstances. Everyone has the right to Medicare and should not be subject to going to health departments or healthcare for homeless when sick especially during these times with when we are having different strains of diseases and germs which may not be able to be cured by past antibiotics. We are one world health insurance is a must for all no matter the circumstances of immigration.

Please vote **YES** on this life saving legislation to expand access to Medicaid to all Marylanders regardless of immigration status and to establish a subsidy program so newly covered patients can afford healthcare.

In Unity,

Teneia Wells, teneiawells@yahoo.com

¹ **Proposed Amendment:** Section V - add a number A (5): "That provides State premium assistance and cost-sharing reduction subsidies for Qualified Residents that seek to attain the same level of health plan affordability and limit on out-of-pocket costs experienced by all other health plan purchasers on the exchange."