



TESTIMONY FOR SB0705
Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program
Access to Care Act

Bill Sponsors: Senators Hayes and Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0705 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Everyone should have health care. The price for health care services and medications is outrageously high. Without having basic health care, simple illnesses go unchecked and because individuals without health care do not see a doctor except in emergencies, and those illnesses can force the individual into bankruptcy. In many cases, just getting lifesaving medicine is a choice between eating and paying rent and getting the medicine.

This bill would open up the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (ACA Coverage) to all Marylanders who meet the regular ACA eligibility, regardless of immigration status. This bill would also create a subsidy program with the funds necessary to cover new enrollees. It is potentially lifesaving for many residents of the state.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.