



## Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 705

Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program  
(Access to Care Act)

Senate Finance Committee

February 20, 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Pamela Beidle, and Members of the Committee,

Progressive Maryland, a statewide non-profit grassroots organization with 20,000 individual members and supporters, 4 local chapters, and 21 affiliated labor, civil rights, health and environmental groups, is pleased to provide testimony in support of SB 705..

Our organization believes that healthcare is a human right and that everyone, no matter their immigration status, should be able to have access to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and be given the opportunity to pay for health insurance. We all benefit when our residents have health coverage. People live longer, children get the health services and care they need, and families don't have to face serious health and financial insecurity. This bill would be game changing for tens of thousands of our neighbors.

Reducing the state's uninsured population benefits all of us. It means we will spend less money as a state on ER care and uncompensated care. Most importantly, more people will get routine, preventive care; and more Maryland workers and families can lead healthier, less stressful lives.

Passing practical and valuable legislation aligns with our values and with the values that this Committee and that the Maryland General Assembly have consistently upheld: treating all people with dignity, supporting every Marylander's access to basic necessities and public goods, ensuring racial and gender equity in our healthcare system, and lowering the percentage of Marylanders without health coverage.

We hope that you will support this critical legislation and urge your colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patty Snee

Progressive Maryland Healthcare Campaigns

On Behalf of the Progressive Maryland Health Care Task Force

District 20 Resident

