

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 705
Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care
Act)
Senate Finance Committee

February 21, 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Parampil and I am a first-year medical student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I am testifying today in support of SB 705 - Access to Care Act. The views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of Johns Hopkins University or the Johns Hopkins Health System.

I have witnessed first-hand the adverse consequences and health disparities that stem from inaccessible healthcare. Earlier this year, I met a young man with a neck tumor who had held off on seeing a doctor until he could no longer swallow. When the physician asked him why, he said he was worried about not being able to afford it. He also couldn't afford to skip work for treatment. A choking episode which nearly killed him is what finally pushed him to seek help. In that moment, I felt helpless knowing that he and many patients like him are barred from receiving care, often until it is too late.

This common-sense legislation is uncontentious and aligns Maryland with its values of protecting life and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care. I think back to my time working in healthcare back in my home state of California, where undocumented immigrants of all ages have access to comprehensive medical care. As a future physician and current resident of Baltimore, I wish for this for the people of Maryland too. For all of the reasons above, I urge a favorable report of House Bill 705.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Parampil