

February 21, 2024
David M. Friedman
Silver Spring, MD 20905

TESTIMONY ON SB0705 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: David M. Friedman

My name is David Friedman. I am a resident of District 14 in Colesville/Cloverly. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0705, Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care).

I am an active member of Oseh Shalom, a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation in Laurel, MD. As Jews and as human beings, we are obligated to make sure that those of us who were not born in our community are as safe, and as healthy, as those who were. My synagogue has sponsored refugee families from Afghanistan in recent years and I have been impressed by how hard they work to make good lives here in the United States. As productive residents in Maryland, they should not be ineligible for insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Passing the Access to Care Act would go some ways toward addressing this situation.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0705.