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TESTIMONY ON HB0728 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Access to Care Act

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

FROM: Ran Zeimer

OPENING: My name is Ran Zeimer, I am a resident of District (Your District Number). I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0728, Access to Care Act.

I care deeply about this issue because when I came to this country as an immigrant I had the privilege to access its high level medical system and also because through my career in the medical field I had the opportunity to witness the inefficient and costly care provided in emergency facilities for people without insurance.

Everyone should have access to the highest attainable standard of health services. No one should get sick or die because of their income or immigration status.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Affordable Care Act has granted 28 million people across the country access to affordable health care. However, more than 275,000 undocumented immigrants in Maryland are ineligible for insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Opening up the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, would reduce the skyrocketing cost of care provided by emergency rooms and prevent the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0728.