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Kate Sugarman  
Potomac, MD 20854

**TESTIMONY ON HB728 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee

**FROM:** Kate Sugarman

**OPENING: My name is Kate Sugarman. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB728, Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**

As a family physician who lives in Maryland I know all too well that my immigrant patients who live in MD often have to forgo life saving health care since they are denied affordable insurance. There is a stark difference for immigrant patients who live in DC. DC residents, regardless of their immigration status, qualify for affordable insurance while immigrant patients in MD largely do not.

On a real life basis that means that MD immigrant patients with deadly diseases like cancer and diabetes risk life long disability and death due to inability to afford treatment and care.

As a leader of the MD Chapter of Doctors for Camp Closure, **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB728.**