

Dear House Government and Operations Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with CASA de Maryland. I am a resident of **District 46**. **I am testifying in support of HB728, Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

This bill opens up the MD Health Benefits Exchange (aka ACA Coverage) to all Marylanders who meet the regular ACA eligibility, regardless of their immigration status, allowing all Maryland residents the ability to purchase health insurance. This bill has zero economic costs to the state, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) can submit the waiver application with existing resources. Last year, this Committee- and the House as a whole- passed this bill. I ask that you again forward the Access to Care Act to the floor.

Over 275,000 undocumented immigrants in Maryland are currently ineligible for care through the Maryland Health Exchange. These Marylanders live and work in our state, contribute to our local economy and the fabric of our communities, and are unable to purchase their own health coverage through the Maryland Health Exchange. The Access to Care Act would open the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (ACA Coverage) to all Marylanders who meet the regular ACA eligibility, regardless of their immigrant status, allowing them to use their hard earned money to purchase health insurance.

Living without health insurance coverage can be incredibly stressful. Imagine worrying that a routine, treatable injury or condition could leave you in significant medical debt. Imagine worrying that something like a work accident, appendectomy or other urgent surgery would lead to an overwhelming level of medical debt that you and your family may never recover from financially. Imagine choosing between seeking preventative care and meeting your family's basic needs. This bill allows all Marylanders the ability to purchase coverage regardless of their immigration status.

This bill is good for our community, good for our economy, and most importantly it is the right thing to do. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB728, Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St.

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore