

February 8

Kyle Orland  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0728 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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

**TO:** Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Kyle Orland

My name is Kyle Orland. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0728, Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act).

I have been a proud Maryland resident for nearly four decades now. A large part of why I'm proud of that fact is that Maryland has a long tradition of caring about all of its residents, wherever they are from and whatever their circumstances. I believe this bill will continue that proud tradition.

In a state that has one of the highest standards of living in a country that has one of the highest standards of living in the world, it is inconceivable that anyone should be condemned to untreated illness or death simply because of their income or their place of origin. Everyone deserves access to Maryland's highest quality health care, and this bill can help make that possible.

I was a proud political supporter of Barack Obama and the Affordable Care Act in recent years, and have been happy to see that act help to heavily reduce the number of uninsured people in Maryland and across the country. With this bill, you have the opportunity to extend the promise and potential of that act by helping hundreds of thousands of immigrants qualify for these kinds of health benefits. This will reduce inequity in the state and even help protect non-immigrants from catching infectious diseases.

This bill is an opportunity for Maryland's government to live up to the state's values in a very direct way. The act will help reduce inequality and improve health outcomes for some of our most vulnerable residents. For those reasons, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0728.