



BRENTWOOD Maryland

February 7, 2024

Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Esq.,
Chair, Health, and Government Operations Committee
Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 200, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for ***Access To Care***

Dear Delegate Pena-Melnyk:

The Town of Brentwood (The Town) is writing to express our support for the *Access to Care* Act, which allows more people to purchase their insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. This legislation would lift the requirement that people must have documentation of their legal residency status. There is no cost to the State or the Federal Government, as people would need to use their earnings to purchase their insurance. Given the complexity of selecting insurance plans on the commercial market, residents who have limited knowledge about the market and for whom English may not be their first language are at a serious disadvantage and more vulnerable to fraud. The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange is a proven tool ready to help anyone navigate the process of purchasing insurance. This legislation is a positive change in Maryland's law.

Access to health insurance is a game changer. This legislation will empower members of our community to take control of their health coverage, giving them flexibility and options for care. It will relieve an overburdened healthcare system by keeping people out of emergency rooms. It will save the state money by reducing high-cost emergency room visits. It will help with preventative care services including dental visits, vaccinations, allergy medication, insulin, mammograms, medical screenings, prenatal care, and many more services that prevent the need for trips to the emergency room.

It's well-documented that preventative care reduces overall healthcare costs by catching and preventing medical issues before they worsen to the point where a patient has to get treated in an emergency room. In many cases, people have lived for decades without any kind of health care whatsoever. This legislation will save money in the long run and ensure our communities stay healthy. Access to health insurance ensures that individuals can access medical services to stay healthy.

If you have any questions contact me at (301) 927-3344.

Sincerely,

Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor

Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor
Town of Brentwood

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