



END MEDICAL DEBT MARYLAND

SB0981 - Hospitals - Financial Assistance & Collection of Debts Position: FAVORABLE

Finance Committee
February 18, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee:

End Medical Debt Maryland is a coalition of consumer protection organizations, labor unions, civil rights groups, and patient advocates united in our efforts to end medical debt in Maryland. Our coalition is comprised of more than 60 organizations, as well as individual community members across Maryland who have been impacted by the experience of medical debt. Together we represent more than 400,000 Marylanders working to end the devastating impacts of medical debt on families throughout the state.

We write to express our strong support for SB0981. This legislation would establish long-overdue standards for hospital financial assistance provision. It would also implement common-sense protections for Marylanders from some of the most aggressive and predatory practices employed by hospitals to collect medical debt that, in many cases, patients should not even owe.

More than 100 million Americans, over 40% of adults in the country, are currently struggling with medical debt. This is a crisis that crosses lines of political division and has devastating consequences for the economic lives of constituents in every district across the state, regardless of party affiliation.

Maryland has been widely recognized in recent years for its leadership in implementing state-level medical debt protections, and our state now has the opportunity to continue leading on this urgent and widely-felt issue by passing this legislation.

We strongly urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0981.

Sincerely,
End Medical Debt Maryland