

Testimony in Support of HB268: HB268 Hospitals - Financial Assistance and Collection of Debts - Policies

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair Health & Government Operations Committee

HB268 Hospitals - Financial Assistance and Collection of Debts - Policies

Position: Favorable

Dear Honorable Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Spillane and I live in Prince George's County. Too many of my neighbors are saddled with medical debt and hospital debt. Medical debt can significantly impact their financial security and overall health — with food insecurity, not being able to pay for utilities, even eviction or foreclosure.

Yes, Maryland has made some progress shoring up the rights of hospital patients and addressing the need to reimburse hospital patients who were eligible for reduced cost or free care but didn't get it. But more needs to be done to prevent medical debt in the first place.

So I strongly support HB268, a hospital debt prevention bill that will deliver benefits to everyday Marylanders and their families. Today I ask that you hold a favorable vote in Committee and that you urge your House colleagues to support HB268 in the full House.

Marylanders will applaud your efforts to support them and to hold hospitals more accountable.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Spillane
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