

Favorable HB1007/SB757: Genetic Testing Prohibition on Disability, Life, and Long-Term Care Insurance (Genetic Testing Protection Act)

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From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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To: Health and Government Operations Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the house health and government operations committee to definitely vote in favor of HB1007/SB757. This bill prohibits discrimination in genetic testing and services by life insurance, long term care insurance and disability insurance.

There are some causes of blindness that have a genetic component such as Retinitis Pigmentosa and Leber Congenital Amaurosis. Prohibiting discrimination by insurance is the right thing to do. Insurance companies can either deny coverage altogether or force the customer to pay a higher price. Using genetic testing in this way is both unfair and unjust.

Please vote yes on HB1007 and SB757. Since genetic testing is becoming more prominent it is necessary for this bill to become law.