

Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 987

Corporate Income Tax - Addition Modification - Direct-to-Consumer Pharmaceutical Advertising

Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

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Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 987.

I am currently a Regional Director for a library system in Maryland, and I have served on the Board of Families USA, a national consumer health care advocacy group. I was personally enrolled in Medicaid during a difficult time for my family and am truly grateful for it being available. Without it, I would not have access to prenatal care and my children would not have had access to medical and dental care, especially one of my daughters who suffered from an extreme case of eczema. When she received coverage, she was able to be seen by a dermatologist and to begin treatment for this skin disorder. As a mom who was at her wit's end about how to care for her, I was relieved when I saw that her raw, bloody skin patches were being healed and revealing beautiful skin.

Under HR 1 there will be new work reporting requirements and six-month redeterminations for adults who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act expansion. Most people within this population already work or qualify for an exemption, but will now have to complete additional paperwork and record-keeping to keep their coverage. SB 987 would invest \$5 million per year into Medicaid eligibility operations which will reduce the administrative burden on patients to meet the new requirements under HR 1.

When I was enrolled in Medicaid, having manageable paperwork to fill out and knowing there were people to help me if I had questions about the paperwork gave me peace of mind about my health coverage during a stressful time. I know how important minimizing red tape and investing in local navigators will be to prevent people from losing Medicaid coverage so that they can get the health care they need.

Thank you very much for your leadership. I urge a favorable report on SB 987 to invest in eligibility operations so that Medicaid recipients can continue to access health care.