



TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1246

Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and Opportunity Database

Before the House Economic Matters Committee

By Stephanie Klapper, Deputy Director, Maryland Health Care for All Coalition

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Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony for HB 1246, and special thank you to Delegate Lewis for sponsoring this bill. The Maryland [Health Care For All Coalition](#) brings together hundreds of faith, community, labor, health care and business groups from across the state working to achieve access to quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. We thank this Committee for your leadership in protecting and expanding access to health care coverage in Maryland.

We have made great gains in Maryland in expanding access to quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act we have gone from 13% of Marylanders being uninsured to 6%, and the adult Medicaid expansion has been a big part of that success.

Unfortunately, this progress is threatened by H.R. 1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” that Congress enacted in 2025 under which there will be new work reporting requirements and six-month redeterminations for over [330,000 adults](#) who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act expansion. The Maryland Department of Health estimates that about 130,000 people across the state could lose their health coverage through Medicaid once these provisions go into full effect. The database that HB 1246 would create would help Marylanders find employment training and other opportunities that would help them meet the new requirements and maintain Medicaid eligibility and thereby could significantly reduce the number of Marylanders who lose health care coverage because of H.R. 1.

Keeping Marylanders insured ultimately helps all of us because when Marylanders lose their health coverage, they often have to get their care in the emergency room which is the most expensive place possible. The resulting uncompensated care drives up everyone’s health insurance premiums. Past expansion of access to health coverage in Maryland resulted in [\\$460 million in savings](#) to the health care system which helped stabilize premiums for everyone. HB 1246 would help protect this progress. None of us can afford for Marylanders to lose coverage.

We urge a favorable report with this amendment for HB 1246. Thank you for your consideration.