



March 12, 2026

HB1316 Public Health - Universal Health Care Program - Study and Commission

Progressive Maryland

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patty Snee and I'm on the staff of Progressive Maryland where I manage our state and federal healthcare issue campaigns.

Progressive Maryland is a nonprofit grassroots organization, working in communities across the state and in coalition with a range of labor, faith, advocacy, healthcare, and civil rights organizations. We have close to 20,000 individual members and supporters, a very active Health Care Task Force and four regional chapters.

On behalf of our members, volunteers, and Board of Directors I request your strong support of HB1316. We urgently need this legislation and this Commission.

Our state and our country are in the throes of a healthcare crisis, thanks in part to the actions of the Republican controlled Congress and due to decades of insurance industry profiteering. Insurance companies are making record profits, spending our premium dollars on stock buybacks and to fund sky high CEO compensation packages, all while they raise our premiums and deny our claims.

According to Wendell Potter's February 24th HEALTH CARE un-covered post:

The seven largest for-profit health insurance conglomerates took in nearly \$1.7 trillion from their customers in 2025 (\$175 billion more than in 2024) and they booked more than \$54 billion in profits.

https://open.substack.com/pub/healthcareuncovered/p/big-insurance-earnings-2025-stock?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

Moving to a truly universal single payer health care system where everyone is in, no one is left out, that centers the needs of patients and practitioners, and ensures that more of each dollar we spend is going to actual care makes sense. There's also broad public support for adopting improved Medicare For All according to recent polls. Six Members of our Congressional delegation, including Sen. Van Hollen, are sponsors of the federal Medicare For All Act.

HB1316 will give the state a chance to analyze the numbers and the financial model that could support such a move. Colorado passed a similar measure last year and has raised the money to fund the financial analysis. HB1316 will establish the Commission on Universal Health Care to determine the feasibility of establishing a State universal health care program to provide health benefits to all residents of the State through a single-payer system. This will give us real and up to date data that can inform the state's decision.

Given the terrible state of our health insurance system, this Commission and its mission are needed now more than ever. We hope that you too will see its value. Please vote to pass HB1316 and urge your colleagues to do the same.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Snee
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