

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 John Spillane and I live in Prince George's County. I request your strong support of HB1316. Our state and our country are in the throes of a healthcare crisis, thanks 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. 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.

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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Spillane notmickey@gmail.com