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## **HB1316 - Public Health – Universal Health Care Program – Study and Advisory Commission**

Position: Support

Carrington & Associates, LLC respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 1316. House Bill 1316 takes a practical and responsible step by requiring a comprehensive study of the feasibility of establishing a universal health care program in Maryland and by creating an advisory commission to guide that work. Rather than presuming a predetermined outcome, the legislation recognizes that a matter of this magnitude requires serious analysis, credible data, and thoughtful input from a broad range of stakeholders.

Health care costs continue to place enormous pressure on Maryland families, employers, and public programs. Many residents struggle with affordability, gaps in coverage, or the complexity of navigating multiple systems. The State has made significant progress over the years in expanding access to care, but the underlying cost structure and administrative complexity of the system remain major challenges.

House Bill 1316 allows Maryland to examine whether a different model could improve affordability, stability, and access to care while maintaining the high quality of providers and health institutions that serve our residents today. By directing the Hilltop Institute to conduct the study and by establishing an advisory commission to inform the work, the bill ensures that the analysis will be grounded in expertise and informed by real world experience across the health care system.

Importantly, this legislation does not mandate the creation of a new system. It simply requires that Maryland carefully examine what a universal model would mean for patients, providers, employers, and taxpayers. That kind of deliberate, fact-based evaluation is exactly what policymakers should undertake when considering structural reforms that could affect millions of residents.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1316.

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