



Chair Heather Bagnall  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 6, 2026

Re: HB 1367 – Favorable with Amendment

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and committee:

My name is Santi Bhagat. I am a physician in policy, founder of Physician-Parent Caregivers — a Maryland nonprofit think tank with over twenty years of health policy advocacy — and the founder of Invisible Wave, a growing social movement for Young Invisibles: young adults ages 18 to 40 who grew up with childhood-onset chronic conditions. Most importantly, I am the mother of a young adult who grew up with epilepsy and know firsthand what happens to these young people and their families.

Maryland's elected leaders have recognized this invisible population for years. Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congressman Jamie Raskin introduced a joint congressional resolution calling on the nation to act. Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Senators Mary Beth Carrozza and Brian Feldman, and Delegate Sarah Wolek have all championed their inclusion in healthcare, education, and the workforce here in Maryland. That bipartisan, bicameral recognition is a foundation we must now build on.

HB 1367 is timely and necessary.

Our healthcare system was not designed for people who are managing lifelong mental and physical health conditions that began in childhood — conditions that don't resolve at 18 when pediatric care ends. Young Invisibles need young adult health care designed for their stage in life. This field will serve all young adults and enable to them to participate in education, work and society.

As this Commission takes shape, I urge the Committee to ensure it includes a representative of young adults living with chronic conditions, and that reimagining healthcare in Maryland explicitly addresses this population's needs. They are not an edge case: 1 in 3 young adults belong to this group.

I support this bill with an amendment to ensure Young Invisibles are included in a modernized health care system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Santi KM Bhagat, MD, MPH  
Founder and President

**Physician-Parent Caregivers**

6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 680. Rockville, MD 20852 • [physicianparent.org](http://physicianparent.org)