



Barbara Noveau, Executive Director, DoTheMostGood—Montgomery County

Committee: Health and Government Operations Committee

Testimony on: SB738—Health Care Providers and Health Benefit Plans—
Discrimination in Provision of Services

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 26, 2020

Bill Contact: Senator Brian J. Feldman

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Finance Committee, and Committee Members

I am the executive director of DoTheMostGood—Montgomery County, a progressive organization with more than 1600 members who reside in all areas of Montgomery County. One of the primary areas of focus for our organization is safeguarding and expanding access to affordable healthcare for all Marylanders. I am pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of our members in strong support of SB738.

DoTheMostGood strongly supports the enactment of SB738. This bill would codify section 1557, the anti-discriminatory section of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into state law and add additional protected classes of individuals. This would ensure that no Marylander would be denied medical services or otherwise discriminated against by a hospital or related institution or insurance plan because of their race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or disability.

Ensuring that all Marylanders have access to an affordable, functioning health care system regardless of the status of the ACA at the Federal level is critical to the health care of over 400,000 Marylanders who are currently covered under the ACA as well as to other residents. With uncertain federal support of the ACA, it is imperative that Maryland enacts legislation that ensures that its citizens are not discriminated against in the provision of healthcare.

The provision of affordable health care to all of Maryland citizens is essential to public health, and to the state's economy. No one should be denied necessary medical treatment or insurance because of their race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or disability.

For the reasons stated above, DoTheMostGood recommends a **Favorable** report on SB738.

Respectfully Submitted,

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