



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.  
*Chief Legislative Officer*

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON  
*Deputy Legislative Officer*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Assistant Legislative Officer*

**BILL NO.:**           **HB 188**

**TITLE:**             Public Health – State Provided Healthcare Benefits

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Reznik

**COMMITTEE:**      Health and Government Operations

**POSITION:**        **OPPOSE**

**DATE:**             February 20, 2020

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 188 – Public Health – State Provided Healthcare Benefits. HB 188 would establish the Office of Health Care Coverage in the Maryland Department of Health to establish and carry out the HealthcareMaryland program to provide benefits to State residents who do not receive federal medical benefits.

It is essential that every Marylander get the healthcare they need. However, this proposed legislation’s funding mechanism, a 10% payroll tax on employers, would be devastating for Baltimore County. Counties are not excluded from the definition of employers, which means that this proposed legislation would cost the county \$50 million every year. These revenues are needed for school construction, infrastructure upgrades, and existing public services.

While the intention of this proposed legislation is good, it is flawed as currently written. HB 188 creates far more problems than it solves by undercutting necessary county services and functions.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 188. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.