



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Testimony on: SB514
Organization: Sunrise Movement Maryland (representing 10 hubs)
Submitted by: Stephen Leas
Hearing Date: February 23, 2021

Position: Favorable

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Stephen Leas and I am submitting on behalf of Sunrise Movement Maryland, a youth led movement fighting for a Green New Deal in MD. We support the End Medical Debt Maryland Coalition and support a favorable report for Medical Debt Protection Act SB514.

This bill will protect low and middle-income households from punitive medical debt lawsuits. It will prohibit medical debt lawsuits for \$1000 or under, require income-based repayment plans, and prevent wage garnishments and liens on homes over medical debt. We believe that passing of this bill is essential because no one should be forced into personal financial crises because of a healthcare crisis.

The US is one of the few countries in the world that does not offer free or low cost healthcare to all its citizens. Medicare for all is a central tenant of the Green New Deal Sunrise Movement fights for. While this does not go all the way towards guaranteeing healthcare it at least ensures that people don't become victims of lawsuits because of their health

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB565/SB514, the Medical Debt Protection Act.

Sincerely,



Stephen Leas
Sunrise Movement MD