



Medical Debt Protection Act / SB514
Official Testimony
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We are the Maryland Poor People's campaign, a grassroots anti-poverty organization with committees in every Maryland region representing over 10,000 poor and impacted Marylanders. We support SB514, the Medical Debt Protection Act, and I ask the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Organizers of the Poor People's campaign have spoken with a number of Baltimore city residents impacted by medical debt lawsuits. These stories reflect the worst cases of greed and suffering. Baltimoreans have lost their homes over a small debt for broken bones, sick children, and cancer treatment. These stories exist across the state. The Medical Debt Protection Act 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.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB514: The Medical Debt Protection Act, with no amendments that water-down the bill.

Sincerely,
Maryland PPC

Tri-Chair of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign,
Part of the National Poor People's Campaign for a National Moral Revival