



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 11, 2021

To: House Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 634 - Association Health Coverage Plans

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support with amendment of HB 634, legislation that specifies, for purposes of group health insurance, an “association” may include a chamber of commerce. The bill repeals application of Maryland’s small group market reforms to any health benefit plan offered by an association, a professional employer organization, or any other entity, including a plan issued under the laws of another state. The definitions of “health benefit plan” are altered to exclude certain association plans from premium rate review and to exclude a multiple employer trust or association from the requirements of the small group market.

As MDFB looks for ways to provide more services to Maryland farmers and rural businesses, affordable health care coverage is an area that has shown to be a major area of concern. We are asking to be added to the Chamber of Commerce as eligible entities to offer association health coverage plans.

Amendment: On page 2, line 12 after Labor Union, add: **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU,**

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 634 WITH AMENDMENT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396