

To the House Health & Government Operations Committee

Hello! My name is Eliza. I'm a City of Baltimore homeowner and a member of the End Medical Debt Coalition. I support the Medical Debt Protection Act (HB565/SB514).

I am writing to appeal to the most compassionate part of yourself. People are suffering from medical debt. Folks who cannot afford to pay less than a \$1000 dollar bill certainly cannot afford a lien on their home or garnishment of their paychecks. The fact hospitals can do this seems to be a predatory practice that is kicking people when they are down, already in debt, already struggling. This is not the kind of community, the kind of state, country or world I want to live in.

No doubt we are living through difficult times. This bill is a light in the darkness, and I implore you all to be a part of that light, to be a part of that hope, to be a part of alleviating the suffering of people all over Maryland.

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

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I have lit a candle of prayer for the committee.

With gratitude,
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