

DANIEL L. COX
Legislative District 4
Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Civil Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law

Task Force to Study Crime
Classification and Penalties



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 326
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3288 · 301-858-3288
800-492-7122 Ext. 3288
Dan.Cox@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 19, 2021

**Favorable Testimony for HB 1167- Maryland Nondiscrimination in
Health Care Coverage Act**

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk and committee members:

The Maryland Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act makes it clear that all human life has worth. Maryland law should protect all humans: young or old, sick or healthy, disabled or enabled. Government should not adopt rules and regulations contrary to this simple principle.

Specifically, this bill provides that an agency may not develop or use a dollars per quality adjusted life year or a similar measure that discounts the value of a life based on an individual's disability, including age or chronic illness, as a threshold to establish what type of health care is cost effective or recommended. Further, an agency may not use a dollar per quality adjusted life year or similar measure as a threshold to make coverage reimbursement, incentive program, or utilization management decisions, whether the decisions are by the agency or from a third party.

Another component of the law provides that all advocacy groups are consulted –a seat at the table so to say-- when health policies are being discussed and promulgated. This bill spells out the process in which the public must be involved including providing the public with more comprehensive analysis of potential impacts on the various populations.

All human life has worth. This bill reflects the hearts of Marylanders. It makes it clear that we will not use harsh cost saving calculating decisions in our state health care policies. I ask that the committee adopt a favorable report on HB 1167 – Maryland Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DLC", written in a cursive style.

Daniel L. Cox