



FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

March 9, 2021

Madam Chair, Madam Vice-Chair and Committee Members
Health & Government Operations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the organizations representing the alcohol producers of Maryland, I write in strong support for HB634 Association Health Coverage Plan.

The non-profit trade associations we represent have tried unsuccessfully for years to develop plans to cover our members' employees, to no avail.

***We have been told regularly by carriers and brokers,
"We could do this and get you great rates TODAY if you were in Virginia
or many other states, just not in Maryland."***

When our members try to obtain coverage through the SHOP exchange, the rates are often no better than if employees were shopping independently.

We strongly support the legislation if it truly applied to all associations, including 501c4, 501c5 and 501c6 organizations. So many of our members cannot afford insurance for their employees, and carriers aren't offering discounts for "unqualified groups" in Maryland.

We urge your support favorable with an amendment to include all non-profit trade associations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Atticks".

Kevin Atticks, DCD
Brewers Association of Maryland
Maryland Wineries Association
Maryland Distillers Guild