

Support HB565: Medical Debt Protection Act

February 16, 2020

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Centers for Independent Living provide supports and services to people with disabilities that enhance independence. Often times in the course of providing our services, we discover that consumers are overburdened by medical bills. Having a disability can be quite expensive so medical debt impacts the disability community more profoundly.

This bill would protect low and middle-income households from punitive medical debt lawsuits. It will prohibit medical debt lawsuits for \$1000 or less, require income-based repayment plans, and prevent wage garnishments and liens on homes over medical debt. We believe that the passing of this bill is essential because no one should have to choose between their health and their home.

The undersigned Centers for Independent Living strongly urge a favorable report on this bill.

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