



**Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**Committee:** Finance

**Testimony on:** HB0694 – Hospitals – Financial Assistance – Medical Bill Reimbursement

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** March 30, 2022

**Bill Contact:** Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as several nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. Equity must be restored when Maryland hospitals are failing in their legal obligation to provide financial assistance to low-income patients.

HB0694 responds to the shocking report that Maryland hospitals collected an estimated \$60 million from patients who should have received free medical care in 2017 and 2018. This money needs to be returned to these low-income Marylanders who were robbed by the hospitals that were supposed to care for them.

HB0694, as amended, will require the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission, in coordination with the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Human Services, and the Maryland Hospital Association, to develop a process for identifying and reimbursing patients who qualified for free medical care in 2017 through 2021 and implement the process by January 1, 2023.

This is the right thing to do to protect Maryland patients and ensure accountability for hospitals. DTMG therefore strongly supports HB0694 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett  
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team  
[oliviabartlett@verizon.net](mailto:oliviabartlett@verizon.net)  
240-751-5599