

HB1358: Health – Protection of Personal Medical Information
FAVORABLE
Love Maryland PAC

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC comes before you today to testify in strong support of HB1358.

Confidentiality with respect to medical information is one of the most necessary rights for our state to protect. Everyone in this great state has private health care related pieces of information that they consider too personal to share with anyone other than their doctor. Perhaps that information is treatment for past STI's, or pregnancy that could impact their job if disclosed too early, or a cancer diagnosis that would cause their employer to drop them from the insurance plan during an open enrollment period if they knew. Maybe it would impact their employability, or their opportunity to pursue a passion in life if word got out. Maybe it's a mental health struggle that would impact someone's ability to secure housing for themselves and their family. Perhaps it's a past struggle with substance abuse that would endanger the very recovery one worked so hard to achieve.

We never really know what goes on in another person's life and health care, and we should not have access to that information. No one should. No one should be denied access to necessities and the opportunity to earn a living because of what has happened in their health care past.

For the reason's outlines above, the Love Maryland PAC strongly supports and urges a favorable report on HB1358.

Megan Montgomery

Chair

Love Maryland PAC