



# END MEDICAL DEBT MARYLAND

## Testimony on HB 694

Hospitals - Financial Assistance - Medical Bill Reimbursement

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair Pendergrass and the House Health & Government Operations Committee:

My name is Jackie MacMillan, and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am a member of the End Medical Debt Maryland Coalition, and I support House Bill 694.

HB 694 responds to the report that Maryland hospitals collected an estimated \$60 million from low income patients for whom the hospitals were required by state law to provide *free medical care* in both 2017 and 2018, according to the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

Working with the Coalition I learned that the top executives of Maryland's "non-profit" hospitals received over a million dollars a year in compensation. Among these executives, two received over \$27 million during a recent five year period, followed by three who received \$12-18 million, and three more who received over \$9 million. [This astonishing compensation](#) was paid to executives as the hospitals were aggressively pursuing low income patients for care that should have been free. This Robin Hood-in-reverse behavior is not only illegal, but deeply harmful to our communities and struggling families.

HB 694 puts hard-earned cash back in the hands of low-income Marylanders who were robbed by the hospitals that were supposed to care for them. I respectfully urge this committee to demonstrate its commitment to Maryland patients by **issuing a favorable report with NO weakening amendments on HB 694.**

Sincerely,

Jacqueline (Jackie) MacMillan  
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