



TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL
59
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
MARYLAND NONPROFITS

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Maryland Nonprofits supports Senate Bill 59 and House Bill 107.

Maryland Nonprofits participated in the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program Workgroup. The Workgroup found that the effects of federal and state tax credits and incentives for individual health coverage make a subsidy program for small employers impractical at this time. However, there is a great opportunity to narrow the coverage gap with an initiative to promote coverage with small employers and their employees.

The bill allows the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange to have a special enrollment period for uninsured employees of small employers. It establishes and funds an initiative for nonprofits and small businesses to facilitate their employees' health coverage.

Thousands of Maryland small employers are nonprofit organizations.

Senate Bill 59/House Bill 107 provides some practical strategies for small employers - nonprofit and for-profit alike - to promote quality affordable health coverage for their employees.

In addition to helping nonprofit organizations and their employees, SB 59/HB 107 will help the clients and customers of health-related nonprofits. Small business employees are one of the groups with significant numbers of uninsured Marylanders. In many cases, coverage is available to these individuals at very low cost, due to federal and state incentives. Reducing the coverage gap will help the clients of nonprofits whose mission is to promote health, behavioral health, and overall quality of life.

For these reasons, **Maryland Nonprofits respectfully requests a FAVORABLE report on SB 59/HB 107.**

Maryland Nonprofits is the statewide network of all nonprofits, with more than 1,700 member organizations across the state. Nonprofit organizations employ 12.9% of the state's private sector workforce.