



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill:	Senate Bill 59 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing
Hearing Date:	February 1, 2023
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 59 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing*. The bill will require the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) to offer an open enrollment period to individuals who become employed by a small employer that does not offer employer-sponsored health benefit plans. Additionally, the bill increases the funding to the Maryland Health Benefit fund for certain years to assist MHBE with marketing and outreach to small employers and facilitate enrollment in health insurance coverage.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and oral health care services to underserved communities. We have seen the impact of expansion of insurance options under the Affordable Care Act. The number of uninsured Marylanders has been reduced by half from about 12% to 6.5%.ⁱ To further reduce the uninsured population, Maryland needs to continue to expand enrollment opportunities for individuals who become employed by small employers that do not offer employer-sponsored health benefit plans.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net

ⁱ <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/health-insurance-coverage-of-the-total-population-cps/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedRows=%7B%22states%22:%7B%22maryland%22:%7B%7D%7D%7D&sortModeI=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7>