

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 59  
Before the Senate Finance Committee  
By Jamal Lee, Executive Director of Breasia Productions  
February 1, 2023

My name is Jamal Lee and I own a small business in Laurel Maryland. Offering health coverage to my employees is one of my top priorities. Thank you to the Finance Committee for your leadership last year in passing legislation to create a workgroup on how to best help small businesses and their employees access health coverage. I was proud to serve on that workgroup. As we met to carry out our charge, changes in federal law resulted in our recommendation that Maryland invest in an outreach program to small businesses and their employees. SB59 builds on the workgroup's recommendation by creating a five-year outreach program that would include education and training regarding existing coverage options. Our people perish from the lack of knowledge; too many small businesses in Maryland are unaware of the choices available to them under the Maryland Health Connection for Small Business Program, and too many employees are unaware of the financial help available to them in the individual market. This outreach program would help bridge that gap in knowledge and ensure that our workers are healthy and focused on producing great products in America. As a small business owner building Maryland and contributing to the growth of our country I am hopeful that you will provide a favorable report to Senate Bill 59.

Thank you for your consideration.