



TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Katie Fry Hester

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: February 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 59 – *Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing*

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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers (MACHC) is the federally designated Primary Care Association for Delaware and Maryland Community Health Centers. As the backbone of the primary care safety net, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are united by a shared mission to ensure access to high-quality health care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. FQHCs are non-profit organizations providing comprehensive primary care to the medically underserved and uninsured. MACHC supports its members in the delivery of accessible, affordable, cost effective, and quality primary health care to those most in need. To this end, MACHC **supports** Senate Bill 59.

Senate Bill 59 establishes a special enrollment period for individuals who become employed by a small employer that do not have an employer-sponsored health plan. In 2022, legislation was enacted which required the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) to convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding, among other things, the health insurance coverage needs of small employers, nonprofit employers, and their employees. As part of that report, the workgroup recommended that the General Assembly allocate additional funding to invest in training, marketing, and outreach to educate small employers and their employees on their health insurance options.

Passage of Senate Bill 59 will help ensure that individuals have access to health care insurance during all stages of employment. Access to health insurance is critical to ensuring that individuals can continue to comply with treatment plans and seek necessary primary care before it becomes emergent. Working to educate and market information to small employers to ensure access to health insurance furthers the State's population goals. A favorable is requested.