



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0619

Establishing the Commission on Universal Health Care to determine the feasibility of establishing a State universal health care program to provide health benefits to all residents of the State through a single-payer system; and requiring the Commission to submit an interim report on June 1, 2026 and a final report with its analysis and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly by October 1, 2027.

FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: 12MARCH2024

TO: Chair Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Members of the Health and Government Relations Committee.

FROM: Lynn R Mortoro, member of Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: 11March2024

Chair Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Delegate Cullison and members of the Health and Government Relations Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to write testimony for this important study.

The Episcopal Church recognizes that there are many disparities in Maryland and the US. There are many who cannot afford prescriptions, health care in general, vaccinations and many other health related areas that lead to good health for all.

The Episcopal Church strongly supports efforts to address these disparities and ultimately reform our health care system so that every American can access the lifesaving care they need. The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church stated in Resolution 2015-AO92 that we are commanded to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted.

As a retired nurse, I have seen many instances of the harm that lack of health care has caused. ER visits are common, they have no other choice. This alone drives up costs for all of us. There are many other reasons to pursue quality health care for all. Our community depends on this.

Access to Health Care is a basic Human Right.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report