



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared voices for liberal religious values in Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 802/HB 814 - Maryland Health Insurance Option

(Protect Maryland Health Care Act of 2019)

TO: Chairman Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Stephen C. Buckingham, Chair, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD)

DATE: March 6, 2019

UULM-MD has worked to achieve universal, accessible, affordable, and adequate health care for all since its formation in 2005. Unitarian Universalist (UU) voices have joined with many advocates in Maryland and nationally to support system changes, incremental advancements, and to protect the progress made.

One of our unifying principles as UUs is a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. A 1992 General Resolution of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirmed its moral indignation with the state of health care in our country and stated “that comprehensive health care is a basic human right and [we] demand the development of a system which guarantees quality health care to every individual in the United States.” On January 19, 2017 UUs committed to translate our values to action. A Declaration of Conscience was created which included that UUs were: “In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.”

Senate Bill 814 is Maryland’s innovative response to federal actions to roll back the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by ending the enforcement of the ACA’s individual mandate. This legislation would replace the suspended federal mandate with down payments to help the uninsured get coverage while lowering costs of individuals that buy their own insurance. Doing this would increase the number of younger and healthier people in the insurance pool, thereby helping to keep costs down, and allow for them to obtain federal subsidies if their jobs do not provide insurance or their incomes are not adequate to purchase insurance.

We urge the Committee to give this important legislation a favorable report.

Stephen C. Buckingham

Lay Community Minister and Chair
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland