

Good Morning members of the Public Health Committee

My Name is Sasha Davis and I am here in support of S.B. 425 an Act Concerning a Basic Health Program. I'm in this income range ... I make too much to qualify for Medicaid but I can't afford the cost of my premiums and co pays for the insurance I receive through my job. The subsidies I could get to buy insurance on the Exchange are nowhere near enough. I am single mother of one and worked extremely hard to get to a place where I no longer needed the assistance of state insurance for my daughter or myself but now am in a place where it almost makes more sense to make less so I can get the care I need. We are living in a society that focuses on many studies telling us why it is important to take preventive measures as it pertains to our health but we leave very few means of allowing this to happen. I make \$30,000 a year and with that I must care for my daughter and myself but there has been many instances where I have to choose between putting gas in my tank to go to work or a co pay for my daughter or myself. I am supposed to see my physical therapist one to two times a week, something I cannot afford to do because my co payments are \$45 each visit. I could go on and on with examples of how expensive this or how unfair the system is for the middle income families, those who aren't poor enough to receive help or rich enough to afford healthcare. But I would be preaching to choir on that. I am only here to speak for every Sasha Davis out there, every person who has ever had to choose between a meal or healthcare, every person who just wants to be healthy or stay that way. For every person who just wants to not have to wait until simple cold turns to pneumonia or worse death because they don't have the insurance or can afford to do so. Health reform is supposed to be about more people getting covered and getting them access to something they have been denied for far too long. Please pass this bill.