

## **HB 754 -The Children and Working Families Healthcare Act of 2007**

The Children and Working Families Healthcare Act of 2007, introduced on February 7, 2007, is the most comprehensive health insurance reform in Maryland in over a decade. Maryland currently has 780,000 residents without health insurance, over half of whom have jobs. This legislation will provide access to healthcare to nearly 80% of the uninsured children across the State of Maryland.

### **Who are the uninsured in Maryland?**

- Nearly 90% are in working families
- Young adults 19-29 have the highest risk of being uninsured
- One-quarter of single female adults have no health insurance
- One-third of the uninsured are families with children
- 57% of the uninsured *have* jobs
- 29% work for businesses with less than 10 employees

The Maryland Hospital Association estimates “A family of four in Maryland pays over \$1,000 on their insurance premiums each year to off-set the costs of the uninsured.”

### **The Children and Working Families Health Care Act of 2007 will:**

- Expand healthcare access to 110,000 children in Maryland through the Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program (MCHIP).
- Expand the levels of Medicaid to cover adults from 40% of poverty to 116% of poverty.
- Help small businesses, with less than 50 workers, by providing \$140 million in subsidies to assist in providing healthcare for their employees.
- Provide \$10 million to help Marylanders stop smoking.
- Provide \$30 million in substance abuse treatment services statewide.

I co-sponsored HB-754 and I ask you to join me with your support