

AUGUST 22, 2018

STATEMENT FROM MICHELE EBERLE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

“Along with the board of trustees for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, I am happy to announce that the federal government has approved Maryland’s application for a waiver under the Affordable Care Act to create a reinsurance program to lower rates across the state’s individual health insurance market for 2019 and 2020.

“As Governor Hogan announced in Annapolis this afternoon, Maryland’s reinsurance plan is the largest of its kind in the country to bring rate relief to the individual market, particularly to residents who don’t qualify for financial help with monthly premiums.

“This program will buy us time to strengthen the market for health coverage, which has already come a long way in the past few years. Despite challenges, Maryland continues to make gains with populations that have lacked health insurance, including young adults, African-Americans, Hispanics and rural Marylanders. We thank our many stakeholders, consumer assistance workers, partner carriers and sister agencies who have worked hard with us on these efforts.

“The number of uninsured residents has dropped by half during the past five years. We want to continue to make progress in connecting coverage to as many Marylanders as we can.”

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**About the [Maryland Health Benefit Exchange](#):** The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, a public corporation and independent unit of state government, administers Maryland Health Connection.

**About [Maryland Health Connection](#):** Maryland Health Connection is the state's official health insurance marketplace for individuals and families to compare and enroll in health insurance.

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