

**House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services**  
**02/08/2023 01:30 PM**  
**HB23-1117 Affidavit Support Eligibility Public Benefits**  
**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Virginia Gebhart For themselves	<p>If I am reading this bill correctly, it will remove one of the many barriers to accessing decent health care that many of our friends, neighbors and family members face.</p> <p>I understand that some members of the immigrant community residing legally in our state are afraid to apply for Medicaid. They are afraid that utilizing this public benefit will count against them in some way in the future and may even jeopardize their status. They are afraid for good reason. In past presidential administrations, this kind of threat has been real.</p> <p>These members of the immigrant community are our neighbors, friends, family members, co-workers, essential workers. Our economy can't work without them. They should be free from fear that if they apply for Medicaid they will be penalized in some way.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill that will remove one barrier to members of the immigrant community seeking decent health care.</p>