

A HEALTHY MARYLAND TODAY:

Building an Efficient, Affordable, World-Class Healthcare System for all Marylanders

BACKGROUND:

Health is fundamental to wealth, and health care is a basic human right that every Marylander deserves. In Maryland, health care accounts for over 30% of the state operating budget, but employers are still seeing premium increases while their employees face less coverage and increasing costs. Additionally, more than 257,000 Marylanders lack access to coverage, and many more families cannot afford their care. In fact, nearly 20% of Marylanders have medical debt. This is especially challenging as life-saving prescription drug costs continue to rise. Many Marylanders find themselves deferring important needed care. Our systems must provide effective and affordable services to those in need. Our communities and environment must also support overall health.

WES' EXPERIENCE:

When Wes was just three years old, he watched his father die in front of him from an illness that was completely treatable if he had just received the basic care he deserved. That experience shaped Wes' life and forged his view that health care is a basic human right. There is no better team to address Maryland's current health care challenges than Wes and Aruna. As a former U.S. Army captain, small business owner, and CEO of one of the nation's largest anti-poverty nonprofits, Wes brings the leadership and unique perspective we need to address these challenges. While serving in Maryland's House of Delegates, Aruna worked to enact legislation that helped women obtain diagnostic breast exams, banned the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, and supported paid family leave.

THE MOORE-MILLER VISION:

Today, too many Marylanders lack access to quality, affordable health care and there are tremendous inequities in who has care and who doesn't. To ensure that every Marylander has access to health care, the Moore-Miller administration will:

- Ensure every Marylander has access to quality, affordable health care coverage and that the ability to pay is not the deciding factor in obtaining needed care.
- Protect reproductive freedoms and advance access to reproductive health care by enshrining the right to abortion into Maryland's Constitution, combating any efforts to restrict care and expanding training for health care providers so more Marylanders can obtain care.
- Lower prescription drug prices by empowering the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to review costs and set limits for prescription drugs, explore bulk buying pools, and leverage the state's purchasing power to drive down costs.
- Advance health equity by ensuring universal access to coverage, combating maternal mortality by expanding successful home visiting programs, addressing disparities in rural health care by expanding telehealth and remote patient monitoring, improving care for individuals with disabilities, and supporting seniors' ability to access home health care services to age in place.
- Destigmatize mental illness and support mental, emotional, and behavioral health for all by increasing the number of community-based care centers, equitably growing the behavioral health workforce, and ensuring that we are better serving Marylanders experiencing serious mental illness.
- Better address the behavioral health needs of Maryland's youth by expanding community schools, increasing the number of behavioral health workers in schools, and training primary care physicians to provide basic mental health services.
- Address workforce shortages in the health care field by driving more students into STEM programs and leveraging tuition assistance and loan forgiveness to incentivize students and new graduates to work in high-demand areas.
- Address the public health impacts of climate change by addressing the worsening effects of extreme heat and improving Maryland's air quality.



"HEALTH CARE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT THAT EVERY MARYLANDER DESERVES.

Our communities and environment must also support overall health. The Moore-Miller administration will ensure that our State and health care institutions foster a healthcare system that improves health and wellbeing, and where all Marylanders have access to affordable health care services." — Wes Moore & Aruna Miller



BY AUTHORITY: WES MOORE FOR MARYLAND, MARY TYDINGS, TREASURER.