

LATE

SB-2924-SD-1

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Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ameen Jr.	Individual	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair and Senators,

As you know healthcare costs have dramatically increased. As a result our family has chosen to be part of a health care sharing ministry, Samaritan Ministries, which has dramatically lowered our health care costs.

We are asking that you please amend SB2924 SD1 to exempt members of health care sharing ministries. Recently, three other states have introduced insurance mandate legislation, Maryland, Washington, Vermont. MD S1011, WA S6084 and VT H696 have included language that states that members of a healthcare sharing ministry are exempt and not subject to the individual mandate. Additionally, these exemptions are consistent with the Affordable Care Act [26 United States Code Section 5000A, (d), (2), (B) and also Massachusetts regulation, 956 CMR 5.03:(3)(a)3.

Please consider following all other legislation that MD, WA, VT, the federal ACA and MA have already done to exempt health care sharing ministry members.

Again, since you have stated in your bill that you are similarly following Massachusetts, please help our family keep our cost low by also exempting us from penalty for being part of a health care sharing ministry. We have been exempt under the federal Affordable Care Act, which has helped us greatly.

Thank you for your consideration and hearing our appeal.

David Ameen Jr.

Mililani, Hawaii