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**Finance Committee** 

SB719

Support Bill

Maryland Oncology Hematology Robin Lindenberger Patient Advocate

Good Afternoon Finance Committee,

My name is Robin Lindenberger, Patient Advocate at Maryland Oncology Hematology and I here today in favor of SB 719.

The Office of Home Energy Programs has been instrumental in providing much needed help during this unfortunate time in their lives. This is financially harder on our senior (65+) patients who are on fixed incomes. The decision to pay for food/medications versus paying for electric/fuel is their daily struggle and it does not have to be this way thanks to the Critical Medical Needs Program. This program alleviates the worry and burden placed on them.

The application process can be very intimidating to our senior patients. Most don't have transportation to OHEP offices to renew annually. Once they gather all the documentation many do not have computer capabilities to download and forward information. I am in favor of this bill because it would streamline the application process for our patients as well as the OHEP offices. I feel its just the right thing to do.

Robin Lindenberger

Robin Lindenberger