

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0438 - FISHING LICENSES AND STAMPS – FEE EXEMPTIONS – RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony for House Bill 438 (HB0438). With offices in every Maryland jurisdiction, DHS helps Marylanders in economic need, provides preventive services, and protects children and adults. The Family Investment Administration (FIA) within DHS believes that if enacted, HB0438 will remove financial barriers to Marylanders who are struggling financially.

FIA administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These two programs are named in the amendments to Natural Resources § 4–604 proposed in the bill. House Bill 438 would remove financial barriers for approximately 370,000 SNAP households and 17,000 TANF households, all of whom participate in programs administered by FIA.

DHS cannot identify all people in Maryland who are eligible for programs, but we can identify people who participate in SNAP and TANF. Therefore, we recommend a simple amendment clarifying language on page 3, line 22-25 to identify the resident applicant as follows:

“(2) RESIDENT ~~ELIGIBLE FOR~~ **ENROLLED IN** THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN, OR MEDICAID
..... NO FEE”

Removing financial barriers to individuals navigating economic hardship is an evidence-based solution that moves individuals toward increased economic mobility and self-sufficiency. We support these efforts wholeheartedly. We appreciate the opportunity to offer favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. We look forward to the decision of the Committee and welcome continued collaboration on HB0438.

If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,


Rafael López
Secretary