



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: HB 822 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals With Disabilities – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 822 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals with Disabilities. The amended bill would translate into statute changes that have been implemented in the program since January 1, 2024.

In collaboration with stakeholders, the Department has made significant changes to the EID program, many of which are codified by portions of this bill. These changes greatly expand the individuals who can now qualify for the program. They also eliminate previous barriers that may have prevented individuals from getting married, by eliminating spousal income and asset tests for eligibility purposes. Specifically, effective January 1, 2024, the Department enacted changes to the EID Program (1) lowering the eligibility age from 18 to 16, (2) eliminating the income requirement and disregarding all retirement accounts for participants, (3) creating the flexibility of an Independence Account for participants, (4) disregarding spousal income and assets as part of applicant eligibility, and (5) setting new premium levels for higher-income recipients. The Department appreciates all of the work with the sponsor and is supportive of promulgating these recent expansions into statute and the amendments that were adopted will ensure that the statute matches the work we have done and will conform with federal statutory requirements.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary