

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 20401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON SB 226 - Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing
Additional Supports - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 226 (SB 226).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, we empower Marylanders to reach their full potential by providing preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to workforce development and career opportunities. The Social Services Administration within DHS implements the Adult Services programs which are impacted by SB 226.

SB 226 expands the Attendant Care Program administered by the Maryland Department of Disabilities. The Attendant Care Program provides assistance to adults with disabilities to maintain their independence. The program provides financial reimbursement to assist individuals with severe chronic or permanent physical disabilities who require attendant care services to direct their own care and select their own service providers. The bill would positively impact adult clients served by Adult Services programs. Providing supportive services that allow adults to remain in their community is a goal of the Adult Services program. Previously, persons with disabilities living independently were unable to submit reimbursement for delivery fees for groceries, costs of laundry services, and expenses associated with service animals. Expanding the Attendant Care Program will aid persons with disabilities to continue living independently.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. We look forward to the decision of the Committee and welcome continued collaboration on SB 226.

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

In service,



Rafael López
Secretary