

Support for Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Coverage for the Treatment of Obesity

Dear Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chairman Hayes and Committee:

My name is Candacé Jackson, Vice President of Public Policy and Strategic Partnerships for the Greater Baltimore Urban League, an organization dedicated to ensuring African Americans and other minority groups secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights. We strive daily to empower communities across the state of Maryland and to transform lives in the areas of education, health, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.

I am here today to represent our membership as we advocate for the passage of SB 876. As a civil rights organization that is over a century old, we strive to support those causes that help to alleviate health disparities and increase opportunity across the state.

The health disparities across the state of Maryland for marginalized communities continue to plague those who are most vulnerable. This bill will aid in treatment for obesity, which is a factor in over 200 medical conditions and impacts 1.6 Marylanders. New medical advancements will allow for health professionals to treat and prevent obesity and the diseases it causes. With this committee's help, Marylanders will be able to save on treatment costs and have greater access to resources to fight obesity and prevent future conditions. The savings to the state in treating expensive chronic conditions should be increased with the assistance this bill will provide.

Again, the Greater Baltimore Urban League in coalition with others humbly seek your support for SB 876.

Thank you,

Candacé Jackson, JD, LLM
Vice President
Greater Baltimore Urban League
Cjackson@gbul.org