



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair
House and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB1336 - HOSPITALS - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - MEDICAL BILL REIMBURSEMENT - POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House and Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 1336 (HB 1336).

With offices across all of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to help Marylanders reach their full potential. Our Family Investment Administration (FIA) serves families receiving means-tested benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP). The families we serve are impacted by HB 1336.

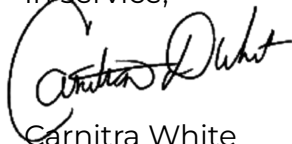
House Bill 1336 seeks to increase awareness and participation in the existing Medical Bill Reimbursement program, as outlined in [Health General Article §19-214.4](#). HB 1336 mandates Maryland hospitals conduct broad awareness campaigns, informing eligible patients about how to apply for a refund for care received during the calendar years 2017 through 2021. HB 1336 also requires us to determine patient eligibility for reimbursement if they were enrolled in means-tested benefits programs, such as SNAP and OHEP.

We are committed to collaborating with hospitals, the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), and other stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of HB 1336. The collaboration will include establishing a data-matching process to identify individuals eligible for a reimbursement under the program, including a confirmation as to whether a patient was enrolled in SNAP, OHEP, or other economic assistance programs.

To expedite the reimbursement process and reduce administrative costs, the Committee might consider adding a provision to HB 1336 providing administrative authority to the relevant parties. Clarifying the authority of DHS, HSCRC, and relevant healthcare providers to share client/patient data for the purpose of executing reimbursements will expedite the matching and communication with potentially eligible patients.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carnitra White", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Carnitra White
Principal Deputy Secretary