

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair

Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SUPPORT - SB 981
***Workgroup to Study Long-Term Care Medicaid Eligibility
and Payments to Providers***

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

SB981 creates a workgroup around long-term care Medicaid eligibility and payment for care provided to Marylanders in need. The long-term care Medicaid eligibility system is complicated and has been ineffective for years.

The longstanding eligibility determination and payment problems have resulted not only in delayed or denied payments to skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers that provide quality care to Marylanders in need, but more importantly, have created barriers to access to quality care and place unnecessary stress and burdens on residents and their families during already difficult times.

The work group tasks will include compiling existing information on, identify, and study the unique needs of long-term care Medicaid eligibility, the process in determining eligibility for long-term care, transparency of eligibility decisions and permanent payments for care provided to Marylanders in need.

- Identifying gaps in Medicaid eligibility determination that delay or lead to the denial of payments to skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.
- Identifying and studying issues with caseworkers, caseload, high turnovers, vacancies and training.
- Identifying gaps which have created barriers to access to quality care and have placed unnecessary burdens on residents and their families.
- Identifying technical, compliance and process issues associated with the Assets Verification System (AVS), including but not limited to processing times, AVS contract renewal deadlines.
- Identifying and studying the issues faced by the Problem resolution unit (PRU) and making recommendations on the outlined issues.

This bill would take effect on June 1, 2020 and requires an interim report of its finding on or before December 1, 2020 and a final report of its findings and recommendations, to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, by June 30, 2021.

For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on **SB981**.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and the last name "Washington" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Mary Washington, District 43