



200 St. Paul Place, #2510 | Baltimore, MD 21202  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-895-0269 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598  
aarp.org/md | mdaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaryland  
facebook.com/aarpmid

**HB 969 Home Energy Assistance - Critical Medical Needs Program - Power to the People Pilot Program  
Favorable  
House Economic Matters Committee  
February 11, 2021**

Good afternoon Chairman Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee. My name is Laurel Peltier. I am a lead advocacy volunteer for AARP Maryland. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations, encompassing more than 850,000 members. AARP MD overwhelmingly support **HB 969 Human Services - Critical Medical Needs Program – Power to the People**. We thank Delegate Carey for sponsoring this important legislation.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

HB 969 creates a pilot where those unable to pay their bills who have critical medical needs will be able to obtain assistance in a more coordinated manner. This includes Fuel Fund assistance, cash assistance and other programs. The bill funds a new employee at the United Way 211 Call Center which will cost \$80,000. AARP supports this legislation as a common sense, economical way to help those with critical medical needs be identified and given the assistance they need.

AARP supports expanding access to the critical medical needs utility program. AARP believes that policymakers should ensure consumers have access to reliable, safe, and high-quality utility electric and gas services. Services should be offered at just and reasonable rates. Fair terms and conditions, as well as minimum service standard protections, must be included.

For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB 969. If you have questions, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.

