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Economic Matters

HB945

Support Bill

Maryland Oncology Hematology
Robin Lindenberger Patient Advocate

Good Afternoon Chairman Davis and Committee,

I am Robin Lindenberger , Patient Advocate at Maryland Oncology Hematology of Columbia and I am here today in favor of HB 945.

The Critical Medical Needs Program has been instrumental in helping our patients during this unfortunate time in their lives. During a time where they are worried about how they will afford their medications and treatment regimens this program keeps their electric on. The program also provides heating fuel and assistance with weather proofing their homes. Our patients have received help with insulation around their doors and windows as well as repair and or replacement of appliances to have the most energy efficient home.

The majority of our patients are 60 years old and older. These patients need our help to navigate the CMNP . Many do not have computers or access to computers/scanners and printers. We as navigators have the patient collect the appropriate documents to be scanned and forwarded to the CMNP. The Physicians Certification is completed and signed by their medical provider. While it is easy for us to do this there are many navigators who do not work at a medical office. I know for a fact especially during this pandemic , patients can not always get transportation to their appointments and don't have the technology to do a virtual visit. I am in support of HB945 to permit all people over the age of 60 to not have to obtain a Physician Certification form. This would allow our most vulnerable population to have access to the program faster and more efficiently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Lindenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robin Lindenberger