

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB 849 Public Health - Medical Records - Fees

March 24, 2021

Senate Finance Committee

My name is Autumn Jacquette and I work as a SOAR specialist in the Eastern Shore Hospital Center located in Cambridge, MD. The patients that I work with often have been hospitalized multiple times in multiple hospitals or have been treated by multiple providers and need access to many different records. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 849.

HB 849 will eliminate fees for medical records for people applying for public benefits such as Social Security Disability.

This bill is critical in my efforts to assist seriously mentally ill people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness apply for public benefits. Fees for medical records are needed to prove disability, but very often the applicant has no funds to pay for these records, and my nonprofit is not in a position to cover the cost.

HB 849 would ensure that low income Marylanders can access the records they need to secure vital public benefits. For this reason, I support HB 849 and urge a favorable report.