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March 24, 2021

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: House Bill 849 (Public Health – Medical Records – Fees): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports House Bill 849. A new provision to the Medical Records Act would prohibit providers from charging fees to patients, their personal representatives or certain authorized program representatives for copies of medical records to support a claim or appeal relating to Social Security benefits (page 3, lines 26-33 through page 4, lines 1- 7). The HEAU assists consumers who complain they cannot afford fees for medical records and we believe this new provision would have a remedial effect for applicants seeking Social Security benefits.

We urge the Committee to give House Bill 849 a favorable report.

cc: Sponsor