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## Finance Committee

### SB846 - SUPPORT

Eileen O'Connor-Liebman, Patient Advocate  
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### RE: Testimony in Support of SB846

#### Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am Eileen O'Connor-Liebman, Patient Advocate for Maryland Oncology Hematology in Columbia Maryland here today in favor of SB846.

The Critical Medical Needs Program (CMNP) started as a Pilot Program in our office in Spring of 2015. We were beyond excited and honored to be a part of the process when it was passed into law in Spring of 2019. This program is a successful partnership between state agencies, utility companies, trained navigators and non-profits. The Navigators are truly at the core of the success as they are on the front lines working with those in need of assistance in this program.

The Power to the People Pilot Program - SB846 would allow and set up a solid base of paid Navigators to assure that everyone would benefit from their services and no one would be turned away. It would also help support the influx of volume that would affect the fuel fund. 211 has proven themselves to be a great and reliable resource for the community. To have 211 as the paid Navigators for CMNP and their partnership with the Fuel Fund would be logical and just makes sense.

The Power to the People Pilot Program - SB846 is a necessary and vital component to ensure the strength of the CMNP that helps our most vulnerable, our seniors. We are in support and are asking for a favorable report on SB846.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Connor-Liebman, Patient Advocate  
Maryland Oncology Hematology – Columbia, Maryland