

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 849 Public Health - Medical Records - Fees

March 24, 2021

Senate Finance Committee



I am a SOAR Specialist for Healthcare for the Homeless in Baltimore, MD and Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville, MD. Most of clients are in the hospital due to Incompetent to Stand Trial due to mental illnesses. As a result of their conditions, many of my clients have no financial or material resources, nor understanding of the process, or need for income to take care of themselves. 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.

Sincerely,

Rachel Masciarelli

Rachel Masciarelli, MPH
SOAR Specialist
Healthcare for the Homeless
Rachel.Masciarelli1@maryland.gov
Cell: 443-534-9697
Fax: 443-703-1493

Everyone deserves to go home.

421 Fallsway
Baltimore, MD 21202
phone: 410-837-5533
fax: 410-837-8020
www.hchmd.org
[@hchomeless](https://twitter.com/hchomeless)