

**ANDREA EIBLUM, MS, LCPC
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB 849 Public Health - Medical Records – Fees

March 24, 2021

Senate Finance Committee

My name is Andrea Eiblum and my role as a SOAR Case Manager at Springfield Hospital Center is to assist people with serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, with applying for Social Security benefits. 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. There are often fees for medical records 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. This is an essential piece of legislation to ensure we have the medical evidence to prove disability for the vulnerable individuals we serve who are often homeless and diagnosed with serious and debilitating mental health conditions.

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,



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