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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
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House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the Senate Finance Committee
In Support Of
House Bill 849
Public Health – Medical Records – Fees

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

There are many surcharges and fees we are subject to in our daily lives. Some are warranted and pay for required services. Others should be more carefully examined as to what purpose they serve. Unnecessary fees can make it more difficult for those already struggling financially and can effectively become another tax on being poor.

One service that health care providers offer is making copies of their patients' medical records. It comes as no surprise to learn that even this act is charged to the patient, regardless of why the copies are needed. Is it fair to charge these fees when the copies of a patient's own medical records are needed to apply for State benefits? That is the question before us.

House Bill 849 as amended would bar a health care provider from charging a fee for copies of medical records, if the copies are for the purpose of claiming or appealing a denial of Social Security disability income or benefits.

HB 849 would eliminate an unnecessary fee and provide financial relief for those who have already demonstrated their need for it. Prior to this hearing, the interested stakeholders came to a consensus on the provisions of this bill as it was amended.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 849.

March 24, 2021