

HB 849
Public Health - Medical Records - Fees
House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 2, 2021
POSITION: FAVORABLE

I am Sondra Tranen, Executive Vice President at Partnership Development Group, Inc. (PDG). We provide behavioral health services in Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore Counties. I am submitting this written testimony on HB 849 to urge your support for this bill. Our organization serves approximately 1,200 people every year with serious behavioral health issues, a majority of whom are low or no income, and many are unhoused or at risk for becoming unhoused. HB 849 will eliminate fees for medical records for individuals applying for public benefits such as Social Security Disability.

This bill is critical for our efforts to assist people with serious behavioral health issues who need medical records to prove their disability, but very often have no funds to pay for these records. Organizations like PDG do not have the financial resources to secure these records on behalf of our consumers as our Medicaid reimbursement rates do not cover the basic cost-of-care for services. HB 849 would ensure that low income Marylanders can access the records they need to secure vital public benefits.

Again, I encourage your support of HB 849 and urge a favorable report.