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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Government Operations and  
Health Facilities Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg  
Before the House Health and Government Operations 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 are copies of their patients' medical records. It comes as no surprise to learn that even this act of providing copies is charged to the patient, regardless of why they need the copies. 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, with the amendment I am offering today, 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.

HB849 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 and the amendment I am offering today.

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

March 2, 2021