



Cancer Support Foundation, Inc.
8268 Academy Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Phone: 410.964.9563
Email: info@cancersupportfoundation.org

www.cancersupportfoundation.org

Education, Energy, and Environment

HB323

Support

March 28, 2023

Cindy Carter
Cancer Support Foundation, Inc

Good afternoon, Chairman and Committee,

I am Cindy Carter Co-Founder of the Critical Medical Needs Program and Executive Director of Cancer Support Foundation. I am speaking in favor of HB323.

For 18 years now I have been working with the state agencies that provide grants for services. We have been working with some of the most vulnerable residents in the state.

Our clients are rarely in need of just one service, but usually require several such as food and energy assistance. However, much of the time they are limited to just "one" try to get the help they need. Between their health issues, lack of support, and the very complicated system, their physical and mental energy and ability to manage another application has been drained. Without finding an advocate to work with them their power goes off. The family is placed in yet another crisis contributing to the domino effect that happens to so many of our at-risk families.

Food and power are necessary each day. Food is immediate and power only becomes an issue when it is about to be terminated. So many of our clients have used their "one" time on getting food. Without the utility grants their power goes out and they are not able to cook or even keep their food safe.



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Each service needed requires a different application and many times a different place to go and set of people to work with to get it accomplished. For example, when a person applies for food stamps the basic information has been obtained that for the most part qualifies my clients for the energy assistance grant. However, now Energy Assistance Grants require a different application and trying to work with yet another agency.

HB323 means that finally after so many years my clients will not have to choose their "one" help opportunity for food or power. Hopefully now they will have both and be able to cook and safely keep the food that they have.

This bill will help to reduce the barriers for so many of the most vulnerable residents in Maryland. This bill will allow those who have already gone through the work and requirements to get food stamps as one of the entry ways into the program, to now be able to get Energy Assistance Grants keeping them safe in their homes.

I am asking for a favorable report on HB323 to provide Categorical Eligibility for Energy Assistance Grants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Carter".

Cindy Carter
Executive Director
Cancer Support Foundation, Inc.
Co-Founder Critical Medical Needs Program