



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 26

Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment

Before the Senate Finance Committee

By Stephanie Klapper, Deputy Director, Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition

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Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 26, which would automatically grant Medicaid eligibility to children and adults enrolled in SNAP. Special thank you to Senator Augustine for sponsoring this critical legislation. I am testifying on behalf of the [Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition](#) which is made up of over 300 faith, business, labor, community, and health care organizations across the state, and our mission is quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Under your leadership over 400,000 Marylanders have enrolled in health coverage since the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Maryland was the first in the nation to create an Easy Enrollment program to allow Marylanders to start the enrollment process by checking a box on their state tax return, and other states are now following our example. Maryland then built on that progress by adding a similar checkbox to its unemployment insurance forms. Programs like these have led to Maryland cutting the rate of uninsured in half to six percent.

But, there is more we need to do. This legislation would help Marylanders who have already demonstrated that they are very low-income through the SNAP program by automatically enrolling them into Medicaid. Based on [Census Bureau data for 2021](#), this would help over 60,000 uninsured Marylanders get the health coverage they need, including 23,000 Black Marylanders and 28,000 Latinos, making this a way to dramatically reduce the levels of uninsured in Maryland while at the same time improving health equity.

This legislation would also eliminate paperwork currently required for over half a million SNAP recipients in Maryland to renew their Medicaid benefits once the public health emergency ends and Medicaid redeterminations begin again. This will reduce the number of Marylanders eligible for Medicaid who lose their coverage because of burdensome paperwork requirements, while also creating administrative savings for Maryland.

In addition, this bill would improve other social determinants of health by streamlining utility assistance enrollment, expanding access to electric assistance, and automatically enrolling seniors into SNAP if they qualify for Supplemental Security Income.

Thanks to your leadership, Maryland has one of the top five health care systems in the entire nation, and SB 26 will help us continue to lead. We urge a favorable report for SB 26.

