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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 890 - Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**March 21, 2023**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 890 - Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight Senate Finance Committee.**

2-1-1 Maryland is the only entity in the state that provides service 24/7/365 connection to vital health and human services in the state such as suicide and crisis intervention, food resources, housing and shelter, aging & disabilities, and much more. Senate Bill 890 updates the functions of the 2-1-1 Maryland board, which was the intention of the Thomas Bloom Raskin Act, that was passed unanimously in the House and the Senate in 2021. This legislation also adds clarifying language regarding the public-private partnership between 2-1-1 Maryland and the Maryland Department of Health, that puts the evaluation of performance back in the hands of 2-1-1 Maryland.

As 2-1-1 Maryland continues to grow and more Marylanders seek out resources, Senate Bill 890 will assist 2-1-1 in effectively carrying out their mission and effectively connecting Marylanders to important services they need.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 890. Thank you for your kind consideration.