



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary*  
March 21, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 26 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children’s Health Program, and Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 26 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children’s Health Program, and Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance. MDH supports the establishment of an Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) program to expedite renewal of coverage for existing Medicaid and Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) participants, subject to budget approval.

MDH appreciates the inclusion of our proposed amendments, in collaboration with stakeholders, in this third reader version. As amended, SB 26 will require MDH to establish an Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) program to streamline and expedite enrollment of eligible individuals in the Maryland Medicaid and MCHP. The bill requires MDH to designate the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as the Express Lane Agency (ELA) to support the program and facilitate Medicaid/MCHP eligibility determinations. MDH supports SB 26 as amended because it will allow MDH to establish an ELE program using SNAP data for renewals before seeking authority to use SNAP data for new applications.

MDH stands committed to assisting children and their families with renewing their Medicaid/MCHP coverage as well as reducing administrative burden for participants. In collaboration with the DHS, this approach will help support Maryland’s most vulnerable children and families and meet the interests of SB 26. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs, at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Hererra Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary