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HB111 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs - Eligibility and Enrollment
House Health and Governmental Operations Committee
February 7, 2023
Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of lives of children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The Arc Maryland is supportive of House Bill 111.

It is estimated that around 13% of the population in the United States has a disability. This bill is important to our constituents because many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on governmental programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, energy/water assistance, temporary cash assistance and SSI.

Annually, recipients of these benefits must prove continued eligibility to different agencies. This is burdensome, time consuming, and creates unnecessary (and costly) administrative burden for the state. This bill would eliminate the need for multiple calls and submissions of annual paperwork, currently mandated in order to continue to receive needs-based services and financial assistance.

People with disabilities often need assistance in transportation and also assistance to complete and submit paperwork, and communicate to various agencies. If assistance is not readily available, this may cause a delay or denial of services and support for which a person is eligible, and could lead to service terminations as well; causing undo stress and harm.

By passing this bill, we believe that many Marylanders, including people with disabilities, will benefit. State agencies will have less administrative burden and achieve administrative savings by automating these programs for those that are deemed eligible through being found eligible for other programs. Similarly-situated programs across the country exist and have noted the benefits from paperwork-free renewals, and the ability to prevent loss of benefits for families who rely on them.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for House Bill 111.

Sincerely,

Ande Kolp, Executive Director, The Arc Maryland akolp@tharcmd.org