



March 7, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health, and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

RE: BH 1124- Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland, Maryland Think, and Maryland Ones top - Study

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Information Network, 211 Maryland respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1124-Maryland Department of Health-2-1-1 Maryland, Maryland Think, and Maryland OneStop-Study.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health, in conjunction with 2-1-1 Maryland, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Information Technology, to study and make recommendations regarding redundancies and gaps between the services provided by 2-1-1 Maryland, Maryland Think, and Maryland OneStop.

2-1-1 is a powerful tool which gives Marylanders 24/7 telephone, text, as well as web-based, access to the state's most comprehensive health/human service resource database. In addition, 2-1-1 Maryland offers access to various mental health programs as well as Behavioral Health Care Coordination services that connects hospital staff, discharge planners and other emergency department personnel in need of inpatient, outpatient, or community based behavioral health resources.

211 Maryland serves as the Central Connector to health and human services and believes this study between 2-1-1, MD Think and MD One Stop to identify areas of overlap, determine gaps and make recommendations to streamline services will provide a better service delivery model for Marylanders and create a seamless collaborative network.

If there are any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at quinton@211md.org or (443) 721-3860.

Sincerely,

Quinton Askew

Quinton Askew

President & CEO

Maryland Information Network