



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**House Bill 111 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program,
and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment
Health and Government Operations Committee – February 7, 2023
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2023 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic clubs in our county with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of HB0111. Marylanders who are eligible for safety-net services currently must complete multiple applications annually, including an annual renewal, which are reviewed by different agencies. Because of this complicated, inefficient paperwork system many Marylanders are not receiving or renewing Medicaid and other safety-net benefits. As an example, similar documents are needed for Medicaid enrollment and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Based on [Census Bureau data](#) for 2021, 65,000 Maryland residents who receive SNAP are uninsured - nearly one in five uninsured Marylanders. These residents would automatically be enrolled in Medicaid if this bill were enacted. Streamlining and creating one eligibility process would allow additional families to be served with little to no administrative cost increases and would prevent families from losing benefits due to needless, duplicative paperwork requirements.

Specifically, this bill would:

- Implement Express Lane Eligibility to automatically grant Medicaid eligibility to children and adults whom SNAP has already found to have very low income.
- Streamline the process for receiving help by automatically enrolling someone for utility assistance if they qualify for SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SSI, or means-tested veteran's benefits.
- Support seniors by automatically enrolling them for SNAP if they qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Increase the EUSP eligibility income limit to 200% FPL (Federal Poverty Level), matching other basic assistance programs offered by the Department of Human Services for low-income families.

Passage of this bill would be of particular benefit to women and children who are at greatest risk of living in poverty. Streamlining safety-net services will help Maryland families cover their needs and will ensure they don't miss out on important services.

We ask for your support for HB0111 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Diana E. Conway
WDC President

Margaret Hadley
WDC Advocacy Committee