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FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

February 3, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 0111 (Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment):
Support

The Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 0111. This bill would permit individuals who are eligible for certain social services programs to receive benefits in other programs with overlapping eligibility requirements without necessitating a separate application, improving services to the state's most vulnerable populations and increasing the efficiency of the state's administration of these programs. For example, individuals eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program qualify for SNAP benefits with household incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level, which means they are also income-eligible in Maryland for Medicaid which provides eligibility up to 138% of FPL (and an even higher threshold for pregnant women and children). Likewise, recipients of Supplemental Security Income have income already verified below the FPL for SNAP benefits, and recipients of these and other programs have overlapping eligibility for fuel and utility assistance programs. Requiring separate applications for each of these programs increases the burden for applicants and the costs for state agencies administering these programs.

This common-sense approach has been recognized as a key opportunity by national policymakers, particularly as the COVID-19 public health emergency winds down and many individuals and families risk losing benefits that were extended for public health and safety.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/opportunities-for-states-to-coordinate-medicaid-and-snap-renewals>

<https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/eligibility-enrollment-rules.pdf> (Renewal Flexibilities, slides 55-58)

We ask the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

cc: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Sponsor