



February 14, 2022

**Health and Government Operations Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Maryland Department of Health – 2-1-1 Maryland – Oversight

Hello, Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly and members of this committee, my name is Janice Williams, Chair Maryland Information Network, 211MD.

2-1-1 is a powerful tool which gives Marylanders 24/7 telephone, text, as well as web-based, access to the resources they need, when they need them. We are also a partner in emergencies, crises, and homeland security with access to the state's most comprehensive health and human services resource database.

Our Board of Directors is pleased to support HB 340, Maryland Department of Health – 211 Maryland – Oversight. This bill reflects the current vision of the Maryland Information Network that administers the 211 System in Maryland, to serve as the central connector for health and human services; and clarifies the public/private responsibilities between the board and the Department.

Over the past year, the board and the organization has evolved to ensure the 211 system is in position to meet the needs of Marylanders and have the financial resources to support the demand for services. House Bill 340 will strengthen our relationship with the department support a path towards more sustainable funding and increase collaboration amongst other government offices.

Our hope is to increase usage of the tools available with 211 and the Maryland Information Network to improve health outcomes and address social economic disparities in our State.

I would like to thank Delegate Cullison for being a 211 Champion and the General Assembly for recognizing the importance of Maryland's 211 system. I ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 340.

Thank you.

Janice Williams, Chair
Maryland Information Network