



## **Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland**

### **Support for HB 111**

#### **Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment**

House Health and Government Operations Committee  
February 7, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

I am Betty McGarvie Crowley from Del. Kaiser's District representing the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD). We are an advocacy organization, with members in 23 UU congregations throughout the state. Since its founding in 2005, health care issues have been a priority and we are an active member of the Health Care for All Coalition.

UULM-MD supports HB 111, Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment. The programs in this legislation are essential safety net ones including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland's Children's Health Program, Department of Human Services Programs, Temporary Cash Assistance, and Energy Assistance. This legislation will automatically enroll individuals who are in specific programs into other programs without going through another application process such as seniors in SNAP if they are eligible for Supplemental Security Income.

I first became aware of the difficulty low income and marginalized people had in obtaining needed services in 1963 when I was working in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program at the Prince George's Welfare Department. The paper work then and now is complicated and requires duplication and repetition if the applicant is potentially eligible for more than one program. Over the years I have worked on efforts to streamline, consolidate, and simplify the process for low-income individuals who are often marginalized by color and ethnicity. Many did and do not have the ability to navigate the many bureaucratic procedures that are difficult to comprehend. It is especially hard for individuals who cannot speak or read English. Therefore, many individuals did not and still do not receive essential safety net services.

HB 111 is a major step in helping simplify the eligibility process for many programs. For example, it will enable up to the 60,000 children and adults who receive SNAP to automatically enroll in Medicaid. This would help reduce health care inequity for the 28,000 Latinos and 23,000 Black Marylanders in SNAP who will be able to fill out a single form to enroll in many safety net programs. The quality of lives of individuals who have been denied essential health, social services and other programs will be enhanced by passage of this legislation.

We urge a favorable report of HB 111.

Thank you.

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

[www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org) [info@uulmmd.org](mailto:info@uulmmd.org) [www.facebook.com/uulmmd](https://www.facebook.com/uulmmd) [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)