



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 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 2, 2023

Submitted by Kali Schumitz and Mark Huffman, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Job Opportunities Task Force
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports HB 111, which requires the Maryland Department of Health to start an Express Lane Eligibility Program to enroll individuals into certain programs. And this bill requires the Department of Human Services to categorically make eligible and automatically enroll with one streamlined application income-eligible individuals and households for SNAP and Energy Assistance.

HB 111's benefits are significant:

- Automatically enrolling people for energy bill pay assistance if they qualify for SNAP, TANF, SSI and means-tested veteran's benefits.
- Reducing the duplicity of multiple trips, multiple documents, for residents.
- Reducing the intake flow for state benefit offices.
- Ensuring that seniors and vulnerable low-income household's power stays on as many receive SNAP, went through the SNAP application process, and certifiers missed the opportunity to check for energy assistance needs.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 111.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.