

BONNIE CULLISON
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

Vice Chair, Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Insurance and Pharmaceuticals
Health Occupations and Long Term Care

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3883 · 301-858-3883
800-492-7122 Ext. 3883
Fax: 410-841-3882 · 301-858-3882
Bonnie.Cullison@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 353
Maryland Department of Health – MD 2-1-1 Maryland – Oversight

Good afternoon, Chairman Peña-Melnyk, and honorable members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present HB 353 Maryland Department of Health – MD 2-1-1 Maryland – Oversight.

2-1-1 Maryland, is a statewide resource to connect residents to health and human services 24/7/365 by text, chat and phone. This bill simply transfers the oversight from MDH back to the 2-1-1 board, as was the original intention. Over the years, 2-1-1 Maryland has evolved into the Maryland Information Network, establishing itself as the state's central hub for connecting residents to a broad array of human service programs. This transformation has enabled us to serve Marylanders more effectively, ensuring they have access to the support they need, when they need it. As part of this evolution, we have expanded our board membership to ensure more comprehensive oversight and better alignment with the diverse needs of our communities.

The value of the 2-1-1 system as a trusted resource for state agencies continues to grow. For instance, their partnership with the Maryland Primary Care Program under the Maryland Department of Health has significantly improved access to dependable health and human service resources. Additionally, the Behavioral Health Administration's recent expansion of care coordination services through 2-1-1 exemplifies their system's critical role in addressing the state's health service needs.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request your favorable report on HB 353.