

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 153 Medical Records - Fees - Attorneys Representing Patients  
Health and Government Operations

Good afternoon:

My name is Wanda Clark. I suffer from Meningioma for which I have had two surgeries in 2019 followed by radiation. I also suffer from migraines several times a week. I have high blood pressure and anemia. I am unable to walk for an extended period. I also have blindness caused from Meningioma surgeries and my vision worsens with migraines. I also suffer from depression.

My lawyer filed my Social Security disability application in January of 2021 and helped me with the approval of my case in September 2023; after two and a half years. My lawyer requested my medical records to be presented at the hearing. These medical records were imperative to prove my disability. Scott London paid a hefty cost of \$181.49 which has been passed on to me as my out-of-pocket expense. Being behind in payment of my rent and utilities, I needed every penny to buy food and medicine. It is not fair for me to pay for the records needed to prove my disability. I needed my lawyer's help to navigate the process of requesting and obtaining my records to prove my disability.

I support this bill as it would ensure that clients with disabilities who are waiting for 2-3 years to get any sort of income or benefits from the government don't have to be burdened with the cost of getting their records to prove their disability. I favor this bill to waive the cost of medical records for Social Security applicants who are being helped by a lawyer to obtain the evidence to present at the hearing. People suffering from physical and mental disabilities, who have limited mobility, limited or no resources, unable to navigate the cumbersome and difficult process of obtaining their own medical records, need a lawyer's help with the process.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wanda Clark  
4408 Marx Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21206  
443-629-5061