

February 7, 2024

<u>Testimony on House Bill 353</u> <u>Maryland Department of Health – 2–1–1 Maryland – Oversight</u> House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 1800 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 353 to revise and simplify the relationship of 211 Maryland, and the Maryland Information Network it operates, with the Maryland Department of Health.

211 Maryland has become an essential resource for Marylanders seeking non-emergency help and information about the whole spectrum of health and social services available in our State.

House Bill 353 will update the legislative language to accurately reflect the transformation of 211 Maryland into the Maryland Information Network. This transition marks a shift from a proactive 211 service to a more integrated system for coordinating health and human services.

Additionally, this legislation will clarify 211's relationship with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), empowering and enabling the Board of 211 to assume and exercise greater oversight responsibilities.

We urge you to give House Bill 353 a Favorable report.

