

HB 1331: Maryland Department of Health and Department of Human Services - Public Benefits - Eligibility and Prohibitions: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1331** during committee consideration or floor votes.

Maryland taxpayers already fund generous public benefits programs to support those in need, and these resources are finite. Extending eligibility to individuals who are not lawfully present in the country places additional strain on state budgets, increases costs for legal residents, and reduces the amount of aid available to citizens and individuals lawfully present who have contributed to the system through taxes and work.

This is not about denying emergency medical care (which is already protected under federal law) or basic humanitarian aid—it is about responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and prioritizing those who are legally part of our community. Similar policies have been adopted in other states to manage limited resources fairly and sustainably.

HB 1331 is a commonsense measure that restores fairness, protects the integrity of Maryland's public benefits programs, and ensures that aid goes first to those who are citizens and contributing to our state.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1331** and help prioritize lawful residents in the distribution of public benefits.

Thank you for your attention to this important fiscal responsibility, fairness, and public benefits policy issue.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals