



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy* **Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**Testimony In Support of HB 1246**  
**Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and**  
**Opportunity Database**  
**By: Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA)**  
**March 4, 2026**

Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony for HB 1246. We especially thank Delegate Lewis for sponsoring this bill.

H.R. 1 is creating significant threats to Marylanders' nutrition and health. Recently almost 80,000 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients were newly subject to work requirements. In addition, starting in 2027 there will be new work reporting requirements and six-month redeterminations for over [330,000 adults](#) who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act adult expansion.

Maryland has achieved significant progress in providing quality, affordable health care for all residents. Following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the percentage of uninsured Marylanders has dropped substantially, from 13% to 6%. The adult Medicaid expansion has been a big part of that success. Now this population's access to health care is at risk. Medicaid helps reduce uncompensated care in hospitals, which in turn helps to stabilize premiums and shorten emergency department wait times for everyone. Expanding access to health coverage in Maryland has resulted in [\\$460 million in savings](#) to the health care system.

Maryland has made important advancements that we need to safeguard. Failure to take action now to help Marylanders keep their SNAP and Medicaid benefits will cost the State more later. HB 1246 would create a database that would help Marylanders find employment training and other opportunities that would help them meet the new requirements and maintain SNAP and Medicaid eligibility.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to advancing the public health of all Marylanders. Creating this database so that Marylanders can find opportunities to maintain their SNAP and Medicaid eligibility is an investment in Maryland's fiscal stability, health equity, and economic security. We respectfully ask the Committee to pass HB 1246.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdpHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving*

*population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

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