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Baltimore City

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Chair*  
Motor Vehicle and Transportation  
Subcommittee

Chair, Baltimore City House Delegation



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## Sponsor Testimony

### HB 1246 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity Database

4 March 2026

Thank you, Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian and members of the Economic Matters Committee. I am Delegate Robbyn Lewis here on behalf of HB 1246. This bill will help protect Marylanders who receive Medical Assistance (Medicaid) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits from losing their coverage due to the federal budget reconciliation bill. HR1, known by some as “One Big Beautiful Bill” cuts federal funding to states for Medicaid and SNAP. The scale of unnecessary suffering can be minimized. This bill aims to do so.

Medicaid is a public health insurance plan jointly funded by the federal government and the state of Maryland. SNAP is funded by the federal government, although here in Maryland, the state has elected to provide some supplemental funding as well.

When HR 1 passed, it created significant changes, including forcing states to impose work requirements on those who have health insurance through Medicaid, and those receiving SNAP benefits – in other words, our most vulnerable Marylanders. The changes will result in many Marylanders losing coverage, experiencing poor health outcomes and experiencing food insecurity.

The US Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that HR1’s work requirements will reduce federal Medicaid spending by over \$300 billion dollars over the next ten years and leave more than 5 million people without health insurance. HR1 also cuts federal funding for SNAP by \$187 billion, the largest cut to SNAP in history. Nationwide, more than 40 million people who receive basic food assistance through SNAP each month, including some 16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4 million non-elderly adults with disabilities will go hungry as their food assistance is slashed.

Here in Maryland, the impact of work requirements on Medicaid will hit people in every one of our beloved communities. In Maryland, 1.5 million people have Medicaid health insurance; of those about half are children under age 21. Medicaid covers health care for nearly 240,000 Marylanders living with disabilities and pays about 42% of all births. Work requirements could lead to \$2.7 billion loss in our federal Medicaid funding. Around 360,000 Medicaid recipients will be subject to work requirements.

In Maryland, 693,000 people, or 11% of the population, receive SNAP benefits. More than 59% are families with children, and 32% are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled. Importantly, more than 39% are working families! When it comes to SNAP, there were already some work requirements applied to people between age 18 – 54. HR1 expanded that requirement up to age 64. Households with children under age 13 will remain exempt from work requirements, but households with older adolescents will not. As many as 80,000 more Marylanders receiving SNAP may be subject to work requirements.

HB 1246 will help Marylanders at risk of losing Medicaid and SNAP benefits by helping them meet federal work requirements. The bill requires the Maryland Department of health to coordinate and stand up an employment training and opportunity database that will help individuals find jobs, training and other options to help them become eligible, or maintain eligibility for Medicaid and SNAP.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lewis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Robbyn Lewis  
District 46, Baltimore City  
Maryland House of Delegates