

**SB772\_FAV\_MdPHA\_final.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alexandra DiOrio

Position: FAV



**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 SB 772**  
**Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and**  
**Opportunity Database**  
**By: Maryland Public Health Association (MdpHA)**  
**March 5, 2026**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony for SB 772. We especially thank President Ferguson for sponsoring this legislation.

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 SB 772.

*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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# **SB0772 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV

**SB0772**

Maryland Department of Health- Employment Training and Opportunity Database

Finance

March 5, 2026

**Favorable**

**Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB0772**, which requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to establish an Employment Training and Opportunity Database to assist individuals in Maryland in finding employment training and other opportunities that may enable them to become eligible for and maintain eligibility for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill also requires MDH to assist individuals in enrolling in programs listed in the database and creates a process for other state agencies to recommend and forward appropriate programs for inclusion.

For over a century, [Catholic Charities](#) has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities.

Catholic Charities has long been engaged in workforce development and employment support through different programs, helping many toward stability and self-sufficiency. The Christopher Place Employment Academy supports men transitioning from homelessness to permanent, stable living through full-time employment. Our Daily Bread Employment Center and other workforce initiatives provide job readiness training, workforce development services, and practical supports that remove barriers to employment. Through these programs over the past year, 600 individuals have utilized workforce development services, 312 people have secured employment, and 82 have received an industry-recognized certification. Through holistic case management, industry-recognized training, and strong employer partnerships, we have seen our participants move from instability to economic mobility equipped not only for employment, but for long-term success.

Senate Bill 0772 makes strategic and efficient use of state resources as Maryland responds to federal changes to Medicaid eligibility. By establishing an Employment Training and Opportunity Database, the bill creates a centralized, accessible tool to connect individuals with employment training and support programs that can help them both achieve and maintain eligibility for Medicaid and SNAP. Importantly, the bill goes beyond simply listing opportunities, it requires enrollment assistance and creates a clear process for coordination across state agencies, ensuring individuals are not left to navigate complex requirements on their own. This approach will reduce the number of Marylanders who lose coverage simply because they lack timely information or support to remain compliant with Medicaid employment-related requirements.

Our experience demonstrates that “one-stop shop” models that integrate employment, education, and benefits supports are far more effective than fragmented systems. Holistic, hands-on assistance improves compliance, increases program engagement, and leads to better long-term outcomes for individuals and families. SB 0772 reflects these proven best practices by prioritizing direct connections to services rather than passive information sharing. This is especially critical at a time when Medicaid work requirements could place an estimated 9.9 million to 14.9 million people nationwide at risk of losing coverage by 2034. A centralized, regularly updated database, paired with enrollment assistance, will make employment and training opportunities more visible and navigable for Marylanders, helping them secure work, build skills, and maintain access to vital health and nutrition benefits.

**For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore urges the committee to issue a favorable report for Senate Bill 0772.**

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Director of Advocacy on behalf of Meti Negassa, Advocacy Fellow and Erin Finnegan Smith  
Director of Workforce Development

# **SB 772 - Maryland Department of Health - Employmen**

Uploaded by: Matthew Capodanno

Position: FAV

**SB 772**  
**Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and Opportunity Database**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**March 5, 2026**

**FAVORABLE**

Senate Bill 772 creates an employment training and opportunity database to assist individuals in finding training sufficient to make them eligible and maintain eligibility for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Maryland Food Bank estimates that 1 in 3 Marylanders are at risk of food insecurity. A person who is food insecure does not have consistent access to healthy and nutritious food on any given day, and this problem persists in every area of the state. There are also communities and populations who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, including families with children. The causes of food insecurity are complex and often include factors such as financial hardship and low income.

The recent changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid through HR1 have already begun to exacerbate these challenges as more neighbors lose access to their both food and healthcare benefits and must turn to the charitable assistance network. Among the most impactful changes to SNAP are the expanded work requirements, which now, for the first time in the program's history, apply to neighbors aged 55-64, parents of children aged 14 and older, veterans, homeless individuals, and those aging out of the foster care system. The Food Bank is already seeing firsthand how burdensome additional paperwork requirements cause neighbors to lose access to SNAP at a time when grocery prices are high across the country.

Given these rising costs and impacts to SNAP, the Maryland Food Bank anticipates that demand will increase, and not meaningfully decrease, for the foreseeable future. SNAP is critical to ensuring neighbors do not go without food during this increase in demand – for every one meal the Food Bank serves, SNAP provides nine. SB 772 will give neighbors that have lost access to SNAP or their healthcare a way to navigate these changes more easily and help along the way by assisting them in enrolling. The Food Bank has heard from neighbors that believe SNAP as a whole is ending; this database will provide a valuable resource in these uncertain times.

For these reasons, the Maryland Food Bank respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 772.

# **Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAVSB772\_.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Zelaya

Position: FAV



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

SB772

**Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and Opportunity Database  
Finance Committee  
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 772**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

**Senate Bill 772** establishes a centralized employment training and opportunity database within the Maryland Department of Health. This tool is designed to support individuals seeking to secure stable employment and maintain eligibility for essential programs such as Medical Assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The intent is to bridge gaps in information, reduce administrative barriers, and provide direct support to individuals who want to improve their financial stability and long-term independence.

When people have access to reliable information about training programs, certifications, apprenticeships, and job placement resources, they are better positioned to find sustainable employment. This not only strengthens individual households but also contributes to a more stable and skilled statewide workforce. Communities benefit from lower unemployment, higher economic mobility, and reduced reliance on emergency social services. The database also ensures that people can maintain health coverage and food security while working to secure a better future, an outcome that ultimately leads to healthier communities, reduced poverty, and stronger local economies.

Work is a means through which individuals participate in God's creation and build a stable life for themselves and their families. By making training and opportunity information accessible, this legislation supports the moral imperative to help people build self-sufficiency while ensuring no one is left behind. It affirms that society has a responsibility to remove unnecessary barriers and create pathways to authentic human flourishing. Passing this bill reflects a commitment to justice, compassion, and the belief that all people deserve the chance to thrive. Work is a fundamental part of human dignity and an essential pathway to full participation in society. Ensuring that individuals have access to the resources, training, and programs they need to succeed is not only practical—it is moral. The dignity of work empowers people to provide for themselves, their families, and their communities. In this moment of profound need, we must advance legislation that uplifts the God-given dignity of every person

and supports all Marylanders, especially those facing the greatest barriers to stability and opportunity.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 772**.

**2026 MCHS SB 772 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



## Maryland Community Health System

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 772 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity Database</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 5, 2026</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Community Health System supports *Senate Bill 772 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity Database*. The bill will establish a database of opportunities that will allow participants in Medicaid and SNAP to meet the work requirements established under HR 1.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers providing somatic, behavioral health, and dental care to underserved communities across Maryland. We support this legislation because the information on employment opportunities will help more Marylanders maintain their eligibility for Medicaid and SNAP. Our health centers have already experienced a significant increase in the number of uninsured patients as a result of rising insurance premiums for commercial plans, including qualified health plans. We are deeply concerned the uninsured rate will rise even higher when HR 1's work requirements go into effect in 2027.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

**2026 TCC SB 772 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Numbers:** Senate Bill 772 - Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity Database

**Hearing Date:** March 5, 2026

**Position:** Support

The Coordinating Center supports *Senate Bill 772 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunities Database*. The legislation will establish a centralized source of information for training and employment opportunities to support Marylanders in meeting work requirements to participate in the Maryland Medicaid Assistance and SNAP programs. Under HR 1, these work requirements will be implemented in 2027.

Our organization provides care coordination to nearly 10,000 Marylanders annually through REM, DDA, Community First Choice Program, and other home and community-based services waivers and programs under Medicaid. While HR 1’s work requirements will not disrupt eligibility for people served in home and community-based service waivers, we are deeply concerned about HR 1’s impact on the overall sustainability of the Medicaid program.

We support SB 772 as it will support more Marylander’s in maintaining their eligibility for Maryland and SNAP once work requirements go into effect.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).



# **SB772\_FergusonTestimony**

Uploaded by: Senator Ferguson

Position: FAV

**SB 772 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity  
Database**

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On March 5, 2026

Before the Senate Finance Committee

**Why This Bill Matters:**

Providing health insurance and food assistance are two of the most critical ways Maryland supports low-income and vulnerable Marylanders. Through Medicaid and the State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Maryland helps hundreds of thousands of Marylanders access basic healthcare and food. These Marylanders can access preventative care, increasing their quality of life and decreasing the amount the State would pay for uninsured, sicker Marylanders.

Unfortunately, last summer the federal Administration passed the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB). The federal Administration significantly reduced Medicaid coverage and SNAP benefits under OBBB by implementing new work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP recipients. Estimates indicate nearly 130,000 Maryland Medicaid recipients may lose coverage because of work requirements and 40,000 Marylanders may lose SNAP benefits because of the same. Understanding the importance of maintaining healthcare and the ability of all Marylanders to purchase quality food, it is critical to prevent as many Marylanders as possible from being unenrolled in these programs because of new federal work requirements. Marylanders need the State to step in as much as possible to protect these crucial benefits.

**What This Bill Does:**

Senate Bill 772 requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish an employment training and opportunity database to help Marylanders on Medicaid and SNAP meet work requirements. Under the legislation, key agencies that interact with employers, such as the Department of Labor, must create a process in which people can recommend jobs, apprenticeships, trainings, or other similar workforce opportunities for inclusion in the database. The Department of Health must work with other government agencies, the private sector, labor, and educational institutions to develop and maintain the database.

The database also must include vocational, workforce training, and job placement programs available in Maryland, including how to apply and the ability to contact the programs directly

through the database. The Department of Health will update the database at least every 30 days. Marylanders will be able to access the database on a dedicated page on the website until September 30, 2029, the end of the federal fiscal year.

**Why You Should Vote for This Bill:**

Senate Bill 772 eases the burden of new work requirements for Marylanders on Medicaid and SNAP by giving them a one-stop shop for work and training opportunities. Assisting Marylanders comply with new work requirements for these programs is one of our best tools to prevent Marylanders from losing their healthcare and food benefits. The State must do everything in its power to prevent 100,000 adults from losing access to healthcare, and 40,000 adults from losing access to food each month. Creating a database to access work and training opportunities is a commonsense, low-cost approach to counteracting the detrimental changes in OBBB.

# **Testimony In Favor of SB 772.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vincent DeMarco

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 772

Maryland Department of Health - Employment Training and Opportunity Database

Before the Senate Finance Committee

By Vincent DeMarco, President, Maryland Health Care For All Coalition

March 5, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony for SB 772, and special thank you to Senate President Bill Ferguson for sponsoring this bill. The Maryland Health Care For All Coalition brings together hundreds of faith, community, labor, health care and business groups from across the state working to achieve access to quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. We thank this Committee for your leadership in protecting and expanding access to health care coverage in Maryland.

We have made great gains in Maryland in expanding access to quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders. Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act we have gone from 13% of Marylanders being uninsured to 6%, and the adult Medicaid expansion has been a big part of that success.

Unfortunately, this progress is threatened by H.R. 1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” that Congress enacted in 2025 under which there will be new work reporting requirements and six-month redeterminations for over [330,000 adults](#) who receive Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act expansion. The Maryland Department of Health estimates that about 130,000 people across the state could lose their health coverage through Medicaid once these provisions go into full effect. The database that SB772 would create would help Marylanders find employment training and other opportunities that would help them meet the new requirements and maintain Medicaid eligibility and thereby could significantly reduce the number of Marylanders who lose health care coverage because of H.R. 1.

Keeping Marylanders insured ultimately helps all of us because when Marylanders lose health coverage they often have to get their care in the emergency room which is the most expensive place possible. The resulting uncompensated care drives up everyone’s health insurance premiums. Past expansion of access to health coverage in Maryland resulted in \$460 million in savings to the health care system which helped stabilize premiums for everyone. SB 772 would help protect this progress. None of us can afford for Marylanders to lose coverage. We urge a favorable report with this amendment for SB 772. Thank you for your consideration.