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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health

3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1280 – Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program - Feasibility Study

Dear Madam Chair,

The Maryland Commission on Caregiving is pleased to submit this favorable letter for HB1280 – Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program - Feasibility Study

Serving as the “voice of the Maryland family caregiver,” the Maryland Commission on Caregiving (“Commission”) is charged with recommending policies that positively impact family caregivers, soliciting and responding to their concerns, and acknowledging their contributions. Nationally, family caregivers provide an estimated \$600 billion in unpaid care annually, and thousands of Marylanders leave or reduce employment each year to care for loved ones—often at significant financial cost to themselves and to the State’s workforce.

Considering this, the Commission strongly supports efforts to better understand and quantify the feasibility and long-term impact of investing in a structured caregiver infrastructure program. A formal study conducted by the Comptroller’s Office will provide critical economic analysis and data-driven recommendations to guide thoughtful policymaking and ensure that any proposed program is sustainable, accountable, and responsive to caregiver needs.

The Commission respectfully wants to raise awareness that family caregivers are the backbone of Maryland’s long-term services and supports system. Without strategic investment and coordination, caregivers face financial strain, workforce disruption, and health impacts of their own. A feasibility study is a prudent and responsible first step toward identifying solutions that strengthen both families and the State’s broader care infrastructure.

The Commission works to ensure that caregivers across the lifespan are equipped with the resources needed to provide safe care to their loved ones. By advancing a comprehensive study of the Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program, SB809 lays the groundwork for informed, data-driven strategies that recognize and sustain Maryland’s family caregivers.

Sincerely,
The Maryland Commission on Caregiving