



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 26 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 26.

Senate Bill 26 establishes an express lane eligibility program for enrollment of individuals in Medicaid, the Children's health program, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and the energy assistance program. It requires the State to apply for a federal waiver, if necessary, to maximize the number of State residents who may qualify for the express lane eligibility program. The legislation also amends the eligibility requirements for the energy assistance program to ensure enrollment can be accomplished through the express lane eligibility program.

Creation of this program will facilitate enrollment in key safety programs that address the needs of Maryland's most challenged populations. It is often challenging for these individuals to understand how to access enrollment and in many instances, individuals may not know what programs exist or how to enroll. Senate Bill 26 will enhance cross agency cooperation and communication and will provide an efficient and effective approach to ensuring the eligible Maryland residents are able to access all programs for which they may be eligible. A favorable report is requested.