



Cancer Support Foundation, Inc.  
8268 Academy Road  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
Phone: 410.964.9563  
Email: [info@cancersupportfoundation.org](mailto:info@cancersupportfoundation.org)  
[www.cancersupportfoundation.org](http://www.cancersupportfoundation.org)

**SUPPORT  
HB 938**

Cancer Support Foundation  
Cindy Carter Executive Director

**HB 938 - Home Energy Assistance - Critical Medical Needs Program - Power to the People Pilot Program**

House Economic Matters Committee, February 27, 2020

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Critical Medical Needs Program was passed into law last session. This program is a successful partnership between state agencies, utility companies and non-profits. Navigators are at the core of this success since they are the people who work with those in need of assistance in this program.

Power to the People Pilot Program HB 938 would set up a core of paid Navigators so that no one has to be turned away because they do not have a Navigator. It also addresses the increase in volume that would affect the Fuel Fund. All programs need a core of paid participants to ensure its viability long term.

For many years 211 has sent us cancer patients for extra assistance. They have all of the qualifications that one would look for when choosing a partner to strengthen a program:

- Established
- Known in the Community
- Good Advertisement about CMNP
- Process already in place
- System that has a proven track record of providing assistance
- Already work with several of the CMNP partners
- Work closely with Fuel Fund so increase of cases and extra funding for Fuel Fund in this bill has been addressed
- Home visits for those who are home bound with follow up through a Navigator.

To have 211 as the paid Navigators for CMNP and their partnership with the Fuel Fund just makes sense. CMNP solves a major issue for the most vulnerable. A core of Navigators who are always there is vital to CMNP success.



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If the state at some time starts a program that will connect CMNP clients to other services of the state that would be icing on the cake.

CMNP that was passed last year was the accumulation of four years of work with state agencies to get the program to where it is today. The state policy does allow for home visits for those who are home bound. In the sixteen years we have been in business helping over sixteen thousand clients, getting a home visit has been a major challenge. If a home visit is done the client still needs a Navigator to follow through with the process and to make sure that all services of the program are involved.

I have worked with 211 for many years with cancer patient referrals. They have my confidence that they are the best choice to form this base of paid Navigators so that no one is left behind.

**Cancer Support Foundation supports HB 938 to ensure the stability of CMNP and ensure that the most vulnerable will not be turned away from this successful program.**