



Economic Matters
HB 945 - Favorable Response

Debbie Brown, Director, Fuel Fund of Maryland

Thank you, Chairman Davis and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. My name is Debbie Brown. I am honored to be the Director at the Fuel Fund of Maryland.

I am here today testifying **in support of HB 945** which would prohibit the Office of Home Energy Programs, OHEP, from requiring medical certification when an individual over the age of 60 applies for assistance from the critical medical needs program.

Any reduction in required documentation will benefit clients over the age of 60, since this demographic lacks the most access to technology, and would instead streamline the process to provide OHEP assistance.

HB 945 will not affect any current Fuel Fund procedures. At present, we accept a verbal or written (email) statement from a client or their proxy that the client has a qualifying medical condition when considering a client for the FFM critical medical needs assistance.

The Fuel Fund of Maryland wants to be a partner in the solution to protect critical medical needs patients, especially those over the age of 60, stay safely connected to the power they so desperately need during a health crisis.

On behalf of the Fuel Fund of Maryland, I respectfully urge a favorable report for **HB 945**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.