

TO: Melony Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: SB26 Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs - Eligibility and Enrollment

Johns Hopkins **supports SB26: Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs - Eligibility and Enrollment.** This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish an Express Lane Eligibility program to enroll individuals in Medicaid and/or CHIP who are also enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

As one of the largest health care providers in the State, Johns Hopkins whole heartedly supports any efforts to make health insurance more accessible. Johns Hopkins serves thousands of Medicaid recipients every year and we recognize significant benefits from the creation of the “Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program” in 2019. This program allows Marylanders to enroll in health insurance, including Medicaid, while filing tax-returns. Streamlining the enrollment process allowed nearly 250,000 Marylanders to enroll in health insurance the first year of the program.

Johns Hopkins appreciates the importance of making enrollment in health insurance, and Medicaid in particular, more seamless for Marylanders. On our part, the Johns Hopkins Health System employs financial counselors who are responsible for, amongst other things, assisting patients with enrollment in Medicaid. Additionally, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we pay the salary of a Department of Social Services worker to be onsite to help people enroll in public benefits.

We understand how beneficial it is to our patients to have access to such a resource. Medicaid recipients are some of the most vulnerable people in the State, as are those that participate in SNAP, and Johns Hopkins is committed to doing everything we can to support these individuals and help to ensure they have the resources they need to be healthy and safe. Streamlining Medicaid enrollment for SNAP recipients is an easy and reasonable tool to do just that.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB26**.