February 6, 2012

Ms. Jennifer Burnett  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Mail Stop: S2-14-26  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  

Dear Ms. Burnett:

Please accept this letter of support for the State Balancing Incentive Payments Program (BIPP) initiative aimed toward increasing access to non-institutionally based long-term services. The Maryland Department of Budget and Management is encouraged by the new BIPP structural changes; including the No Wrong Door/Single Entry Point System (NWD/SEP), Conflict-free Case Management, and the development and use of a Core Standardized Assessment Instrument. The implementation of a new assessment tool, along with developing our Maryland Access Point (MAP) sites to more efficiently act as a single entry point, will allow the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to strengthen the process by which people are evaluated and entered into the most appropriate home and community based services.

We are encouraged that the Maryland Medicaid Program is committed to pursuing this grant program for the additional federal 26% match. We look forward to this funding opportunity that will allow the state to reinforce ongoing commitments toward rebalancing.

Sincerely,

T. Eloise Foster  
Secretary  

cc: Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene