



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland



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Senate Bill 158- Lodging Establishments - Accessible Rooms for Individuals With Disabilities - Bed Height February 6, 2020 Finance Committee

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Coalition supports SB 158.

The majority of people with IDD want the opportunity to leave their homes and participate in community life through work, worship, social activities, attending events, shopping and more. Many also wish to travel-- either for work, or to vacation with friends and family. However, for people who use a hydraulic lift to transfer to a bed, or who need to transfer from a wheelchair, or who have other mobility impairments, standard bed heights in hotel rooms can create a barrier to access.

At a recent conference in Maryland, an invited speaker who uses a lift to transfer from her wheelchair, was required to dismantle the hotel bed and assemble a bed frame that she had purchased and transported to the hotel, in order to be able to spend the night in the hotel where the conference was taking place.

Senate Bill 158 is consistent with the principles embodied in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design which focus on increasing the accessibility and usability of government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities for individuals with disabilities.

An accessible bed would make travel a reality for many Marylanders with mobility impairments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Kallins
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MACS