



Moving Forward • Advocating for Change

Testimony in Support of SB0796

March 6, 2020

Assigned to Finance

Developmental Disabilities Administration - Program Changes and Required Reports

Sponsored by Senator Guzzone

Written by Ken Capone

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is Maryland's statewide self-advocacy organization ran for and by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are here today to testify in support of SB0796.

The DDA has vowed to transform and update many vital systems and models. We recognize that this is a needed change, but in order to complete this the following systems are affected: change from a prospective payment system to a reimbursement payment model, the licensing system for providers, a move to one fiscal management entity for self-direction services, the implementation of electronic visit verification, many changes to service definitions, and a new billing and payment system. It is vital that these changes happen in a responsible and well-planned manner.

I, along with approximately 22,000 other individuals with developmental and or intellectual disabilities rely on the Developmental Disabilities Administration, (DDA) for services. I appreciate all of the services that are available to me through the waiver programs that are administered by DDA. Without the services and supports I get things like working, living independently, and living an inclusive life would not be possible. My parents are deceased and my siblings have families and other obligations of their own. I have 5 support staff that support my daily needs.

All of the changes DDA is currently undertaking directly effects the services and supports I receive. We understand the importance of all of these changes, but without a well thought out plan and implementation process the system breaks down and individuals could be harmed or left out altogether. The bill makes sure that DDA takes the time needed to make a successful transition, and to help providers make a successful transition as well. People On the Go respectfully requests a favorable report for this legislation. Thank you.