



TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
 Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
 The Honorable Bonnie Cullison

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
 Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: March 5, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** (Written Only) – House Bill 1163 – *Home- and Community-Based Waiver Services – Alterations and Task Force*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, and the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, we **support with amendment** House Bill 1163. The bill emphasizes the need to have at least 7,500 individuals on the Waiver. To do so, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to send monthly waiver notice letters to individuals who are eligible or likely to be eligible for Waiver participation. Waiver letters sent shall be sent in a quantity to allow for at least 7,500 individuals to participate in the Waiver each fiscal year. If MDH determines individuals are eligible and authorizes Waiver services, MDH must ensure that the individual receives Waiver services within 30 days after the determination of eligibility was made. The bill also creates a Task Force for streamlining and implementing waiver services.

Unfortunately, the Waiver program is under-utilized in Maryland. Because of this, many individuals who would qualify are unable to receive services due to bureaucratic processes and the inability to access services. As such, individuals often decline prior to receiving Waiver services and then require a higher skill setting, such as a nursing facility at a higher expense to the State. We would request the addition of two Task Force members. Available Waiver services include assisted living services and medical day care services. However, they are not represented on the Task Force. Therefore, we would request that the bill be amended to include:

On page 7, after line 15, insert:

“(vii) one representative of assisted living services in the State;

(viii) one representative of medical day care services in the State;”

and strike in lines 16, 17 and 19, “(vii)”, “(viii)” and “(ix)”, respectfully and substitute “(ix)”, “(x)” and “(xi)”, respectively.

Therefore, with the amendment, we request a favorable report on House Bill 1163.

For more information call:

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