



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 1163
Title: Home- and Community-Based Waiver Services – Alterations and Task Force
Hearing Date: March 5, 2020
Position: Support

The Coordinating Center (The Center) supports *House Bill 1163 – Home- and Community-Based Waiver Services – Alterations and Task Force*. This bill makes changes to the Options Waiver to ensure that all 7,500 existing slots are filled at any given time. In addition, the bill creates a task force in the Maryland Department of Health.

The Center is an independent, care coordination organization with over 35 years of experience, coordinating services for more than 10,000 people with disabilities and complex medical needs across the state. This includes providing care coordination services under the Options Waiver. As such, we are very supportive of this bill to ensure that additional efforts are made to fill empty slots as soon as possible and ensure that individuals currently residing in, or at risk of, a nursing home placement, have the opportunity to remain in their homes and with their families.

In addition, we also look forward to the creation of a task force to study ways to reduce the wait list and review what other programs may be implemented to serve this population.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or (410) 693-4000.