



c/o  
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#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Abilities Network  
The Arc  
Prince George's County  
Ardmore Enterprises  
CALMRA  
Cerenity  
CHI Centers  
Compass  
Divine Connect Care  
Dominion Residence  
EBED  
EPIC  
Family Service Foundation  
Full Citizenship MD  
Independence Now  
Lt JP Kennedy Inst  
Living Hope  
MD Community Connection  
MD Neighborly Network  
MedSource Community Services  
Melwood  
MMARS-RC  
Metro Homes HealthCare  
NCIA  
New Horizons  
Support Services  
Opportunities Inc  
Resource Connections  
SEEC  
Service Coordination Inc  
Sunrise Community of MD  
Total Care Services  
United Community Supports  
V & T Residential  
VOCA/ResCare  
Work Opportunities

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 20401

#### SB44-Public Buildings-Changing Facilities

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Prince George's Provider Council, a membership organization of over thirty agencies providing services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, writes in support of SB44 as amended by the sponsor and for which a hearing was held on January 16, 2020.

Our organization has a number of committees, one of which is the Community Inclusion Committee (C I C), represented by many of the member agencies. The C I C has been working to identify barriers to full access and participation in community activities identified by those they support and then to attempt to suggest actions which might eradicate those barriers. One of the key barriers we have been focusing on in Prince George's County, as well as state-wide, is that of a lack of access to privacy and dignity in the use of restrooms for many people receiving supports through our agencies. This is an important reason we are strongly in support of SB 44 as amended.

Generally speaking, the people our agencies support are interested in the opportunity to be out and about in their communities. Many are seeking employment, or are employed, while others are participating in a variety of events including shopping, attending religious services, volunteering, going to the movies, etc. For many of them the lack of restrooms with changing stations capable of supporting the weight of individuals who require assistance with personal hygiene is a serious problem. This limits their full access to and participation in community activities of their choice, or it results in their receiving assistance in present facilities which provide little or no privacy, or dignity, as well as often limiting the amount of time they can spend in the activity. We have also heard from family members who express great difficulty when a loved one with a disability is with them in various activities in the community. They enjoy family outings but not when they often end up using the back seat of their car to assist their family member.

We would also point out that there are millions of other individuals who experience urinary incontinence that might also require this level of access to restrooms and statistics show this number is increasing as our population ages.

This should not be a limit to their continued participation in the community activities of their choice.

The proposed legislation will begin to expand important resources in communities across the State of Maryland and will be an excellent first step. It is for this reason we are writing in support of SB44 and its companion bill HB10. We respectfully request that the committee submit a favorable report on SB 44 as amended. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Baynard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert Baynard, Vice Chair  
Prince George's Provider Council &  
Chair, Community Inclusion Committee