



March 28, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate
6 – 11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 662: Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism Related Needs and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy – Membership, Staffing and Appointments.

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate Committee Members.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support adding the State's Coordinator for Autism Strategy to the interagency committees and thereby adding to the diversity and expertise of Autism Needs stakeholder workgroup(s).

I am the parent of a child with multiple challenges and disabilities. I am also the Public Policy Director for the Parent Advocacy Consortium. Together we advocate for children like my son, and other individuals with disabilities that require time, resources and support to help them in getting them what they need in order to reach their full potential. Our military and non-military families of children with disabilities especially need the support that this program provides to families.

We fully support the funding of the Autism Stakeholder Group, improving the quality and availability of services to families. And hopefully ending the very long wait for services that many families experience. Please let's put taxpayer dollars to some positive use for the futures and improved outcomes for all children with disabilities like Autism.

Time is of the essence in making a positive change in the lives of our children. Please put the funding in place so that we can start the hard work of studying and implementing programs that have worked to improve the lives and outcomes of all of our children.

Please support HB 662. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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