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Senate Finance Committee SB 3: Facilities – Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care – Safety Plans Position: Support With Amendment

February 3, 2022

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a nonprofit association of over 100 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

We share the sponsor's interest in ensuring the safety of people residing in private group homes. Health and safety is central to the core mission of enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live meaningful, inclusive lives in their communities. DDA-licensed community residential service providers are highly regulated in this area as part of the regular licensing process, including requirements under [COMAR 10.22.02.10\(A\)\(1\) and \(B\)](#) that mandate that IDD group home providers document how the health and safety needs of every individual they support are being met, as well as the requirement that licensees have a detailed plan in place for an array of emergencies and disasters.

We therefore respectfully request that section §7-610 on pages 2-3 of the bill be amended to include:

“The Department may authorize a private group home to satisfy the safety plan requirement under subsection (a)(1) of this section by implementing a safety or emergency plan established for another purpose.”

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Kallins

