



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 636 – Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act)

Hearing Date: March 29, 2022

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center strongly supports *Senate Bill 636 – Maryland Department of Health – Waiver Programs – Waitlist – Reduction (End the Wait Act)*. The legislation would require the Maryland Department of Health to reduce the waitlist for waiver programs by 50% with an implementation plan due in 2023. We understand that this bill is a significant investment, yet we know that waiver programs save monies by allowing people with serious, complex illnesses or disabilities live at home and avoid more costly settings. Most importantly, waiver programs allow people to live with dignity with a higher quality of life. Marylanders who meet waiver requirements should not have to wait years to obtain services.

We ask for a favorable report. This legislation furthers the vision of The Coordinating Center that “People of all ages and abilities have equitable access to achieve optimal quality health, affordable housing and meaningful community life.” If we can provide any additional information to support consideration of this legislation, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.