



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

### SB 828-Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications

House Economic Matters Committee

March 30, 2023

Position: Support



8601 Robert Fulton Dr  
Suite 140  
Columbia, MD 21046



1500 Union Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211



8835 Columbia 100 Pky  
Suite P  
Columbia, MD 21044



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

217 E Redwood Street  
Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21202



7000 Tudsbury Road  
Windsor Mill, MD  
21244

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such we are pleased to support this bill, as amended by the Senate, which helps all employees give and get the support they need. Access to paid family and medical leave is an important part of the range of supports people with disabilities, their families, and direct support professionals need.

We support SB 828, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program, which makes alterations to the law that passed last year and allows for successful implementation of the FAMLI program. We are appreciative that the bill sponsor codified the intent expressed in last year's bill for the State to pay for the employer portion of the cost of the program for developmental disability service providers and others.

We support this bill with the amendments adopted by the Senate so that the DD providers' employer portion can be paid by the State while also drawing down federal matching funds. In the amendment, community providers would pay the employer portion into the fund upfront, and require DDA to reimburse providers for this expense on at least a quarterly basis. This approach will achieve the goal of maximizing funds related to this purpose, while also covering the additional costs for Medicaid-funded DD community providers.

This bill also contains a second important amendment that addresses the additional strain that SB 828, as originally drafted, would have placed on the workforce of developmental disability community providers, related to an employee's ability to do a certain number of job functions and eligibility for benefits. Community providers will work with employees whenever possible to provide accommodations while also balancing the need for an adequate direct support workforce so that people with developmental disabilities continue to be supported to live the lives they want.

We appreciate your support for people with disabilities, their families, and the employers who provide services to Marylanders with developmental disabilities, and we support the FAMLI program, with the amendments adopted by the Senate.

For more information contact Laura Howell, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) at [lhowell@macsonline.org](mailto:lhowell@macsonline.org) or (443) 848-1384 (m).