



HB107 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing – SUPPORT

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

House Health and Government Operations Committee, February 16, 2023

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

All the Centers for Independent Living in Maryland are small non-profit organizations who employ a majority of employees with disabilities. We would welcome the opportunity for information and training on health coverage choices. To have plans that cover employees well it is often very costly, but the plans are needed to attract and retain employees making us more competitive with other organizations.

Often our employees are people with greater health care needs so we value excellent health coverage and giving employees options of plans. This allows us to ensure employees had the health care they need and can remain healthy and productive. In addition, providing better opportunities for small businesses and nonprofits to help their employees connect with health coverage will improve health equity.

We support HB107.

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