



HB48- Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion

SUPPORT

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

House Health and Government Operations Committee, February 7, 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 providing the following core services: Information and Referral; Advocacy; Peer Support; Independent Living Skills training and Transition Services.

The Maryland Centers for Independent Living support HB48. Our staff and consumers know firsthand how difficult it can be to locate Behavioral Health Care, especially when Medicaid is your insurance. Requiring reimbursement for services provided within a Collaborative Care Model will increase the possibility that individuals with psychiatric needs using Medicaid will access the care and support they need to stay healthy.

The Collaborative Care Model allows individuals to seek more services in one location through a trusted primary care physician. It also allows physicians to work with behavioral health specialists to support the needs of their patient, a team approach that benefits the patient. This integrated method has been piloted in Maryland and used in other states producing positive results for individuals.

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