



Bill: HB 420: State and Local Parks – Play Area Accessibility – Communication Boards

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA), representing speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland, we support HB 420. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

House Bill 420 would require the Department of Natural Resources and local governing bodies to construct communication boards in public play areas. Communication boards facilitate safety and have a vital role in allowing all children to fully participate in play. This visible, supportive reminder of communication differences cultivates a culture of acceptance and inclusivity. Communication boards are a simple way to make it clear to families in Maryland that all children are welcomed, valued members of our community. For these reasons, the Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association supports House Bill 420.

Thank you,

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