



People On the Go of Maryland

**SB 226**

**Department of Human Services**

**Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports**

*Altering the purpose of the Attendant Care Program to include the provision of financial assistance for ongoing additional supports, that increase an eligible individual's independent performance of essential daily living activities, and is requested by an eligible individual.*

**Position: Support**

**February 7, 2024**

**Sponsored by the Finance Committee Chair**

**At the Request of**

**The Maryland Department of Disabilities**

**Written by Mat Rice**

**People On the Go of Maryland**

Honorable Chairperson, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee:

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and our mission is to promote self-advocacy throughout the state.

People On the Go is pleased to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 226 (SB 226). We support this bill because:

- SB 226 would alter the purpose of the attendant care program, overseen by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, to increase the eligible expenses for which an individual with a physical disability is able to request reimbursement.
- At POG, we believe that all people, regardless of disability, have the right to live, work, love, and play in the communities of our choosing. We see this legislation as expanding these opportunities to more people with disabilities.
- Moreover, people with disabilities face greater difficulties in accessing resources in our communities. Being reimbursed for services like laundry and grocery delivery, would greatly facilitate our ability to live independent lives.
- People with disabilities also face a disproportionately high rate of poverty, due to being forced to rely on means-tested programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and other services. This may prevent an individual from being able to pay, on their own, for ordinary day-to-day expenses.
- POG foresees that a successful implementation of this attendant care program would serve as a model for other statewide programs in the future, that are intended to provide assistance to disabled and other marginalized populations in Maryland.

For these reasons, People On the Go advises a favorable report for SB 226.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

M: 410-925-5706

E: [mat@pogmd.org](mailto:mat@pogmd.org)