

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and
Biotechnology



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 425
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3036 · 410-841-3036
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036
Fax 301-858-3060 · 410-841-3060
Anne.Kaiser@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB509: Developmental Disabilities - Community Providers -
Federal Participation for Local Funds
February 14, 2024**

Madam Chair Peña-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 509**, to require the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to develop a process to receive and allocate matching federal funds for developmental disability provider services.

As of 2023, the [Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities](#) reported that an estimated 40,000 individuals with developmental disabilities lived in the county. Many of these individuals utilize DDA funded services, including:

- Behavior Support
- Individual and Family Support
- Coordination of Community Services
- Employment
- Housing
- Low Intensity Support Services
- Nursing
- Self-Directed Services
- Transitioning Youth with Disabilities

Since 1974, Montgomery County has recognized that the higher cost of living and doing business in the county makes it difficult to retain developmental disability service providers when reimbursed under the standard Medicaid rate. To ensure that these critical services remain available for those who need them, Montgomery County, and at least one other county, has allocated supplementary funding to support and incentivize providers.

By requiring the DDA to develop a process to secure matching federal funds, we hope to ensure that Montgomery County can continue to support developmental disability service providers and retain their services for the thousands of individuals who need them. Additionally, as the cost-of-living increases around the state, we hope that other counties can utilize the process this bill creates to secure federal funding as well.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 509**. Thank you.