



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 11, 2025

HB 214: Human Services – Maryland Assistive Technology Program – Establishment

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 214.

### WHAT does this legislation do?

- Formally recognizes the Maryland Assistive Technology Program (MDTAP) as a program of the Maryland Department of Disabilities in State law.
- Allows MDTAP to generate revenue to be placed in a special fund so more people get assistive technology (AT) at no cost to the state.

### WHY is this legislation important?

- **MDTAP helps connect people with disabilities to AT devices that help them live, learn, work, and play in their homes and communities.** MDTAP maintains AT lending libraries, provides AT demonstrations and trainings, connects people to no cost or low cost used AT, and operates a low-interest loan program to help people buy new AT, adapted vehicles, and home modifications.
- **Allows MDTAP to offer specialized AT services in addition to the federal grant activities.** MDTAP is 100% federally funded – through grant funding – and authorized under the Assistive Technology Act to provide services statewide with a limited budget from the federal government.
- **More Marylanders with disabilities benefit.** By recognizing MDTAP in state law, and allowing MDTAP to charge reasonable fees for these additional services, more Marylanders with disabilities can benefit from the services MDTAP provides.

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