



**Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change**  
The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

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**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**House Bill 1066: Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access—Workgroups**

**Date: March 25, 2025**

**Position: Support**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the State of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM submits this testimony in support of House Bill 1066, which would require a new Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access workgroup focused on improvement of health, social, and economic outcomes related to substance use. As an appointed member of the Commission, DRM appreciates the focus of the required workgroup on improvement of health, social and economic outcomes related to substance use. Adding a substance use workgroup to the Commission should result in a more holistic approach to mental health policymaking in Maryland. For this reason, DRM supports House Bill 1066.

DRM hopes the workgroup will include individuals with lived experience and a provider of harm reduction services; their perspectives will be key to the work of the group.

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*Respectfully submitted,*

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