



TESTIMONY FOR HB1244
Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council -
Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Guyton

Committee: Finance

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1244 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our Coalition members are very supportive of their fellow Marylanders, and especially those whose children have developmental disabilities. We were horrified to learn that the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), which oversees the programs that relate to persons with developmental disabilities, chose to change major aspects of the program without any input from the people who would be affected by those changes.

This bill will hopefully ensure that such a catastrophic action does not happen again. The Waiver Advisory Council will advise and provide recommendations to the DDA on system design, service delivery and quality enhancement strategies. It will include ALL the voices that are affected by the DDA program and will ensure that everyone gets a seat at the table.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition fully supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.