



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

HB 1244: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment Position: Support



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CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES

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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, **we support HB 1244 as a way to ensure DDA's existing Waiver Advisory Council (WAC) has a broader representation of community organizations, and the responsibility to make more recommendations.**

WHAT does this bill do?

- Codifies and expands the existing WAC to provide advice and make recommendations to DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waivers operated by DDA.
- Ensures the WAC includes representatives from statewide organizations that work with and for people with developmental disabilities, as well as people with lived experience who receive Medicaid waiver services in both delivery models – self-directed services and community provider, families, and providers.
- Adds The Arc Maryland and Maryland Associations of Community Services explicitly as members.

WHY is this important?

- **Nothing about us without us!** HB 1244 outlines that the purpose of the WAC is to **foster meaningful engagement and establish a feedback loop with all stakeholders.**
- **Ensures the WAC adheres to person-centered thinking, diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and evidence-based and data-driven discussion and problem solving.** Almost 20,000 Marylanders rely on the Developmental Disabilities Administration for vital community supports that enable them to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Whether through community providers or self-directed services, people with developmental disabilities and their families rely on DDA-funded services. These services allow people with developmental disabilities to get the support they need and want, and allow their families to continue to work and support themselves.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.