



BILL: HB 882
POSITION: FAV – Favorable
COMMITTEE: Health
DATE: February 13, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Department of Disabilities
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Bagnall,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for **HB 882, Consumer Health Information Hub – Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub – Repeal**. This legislation would repeal the July 2026 sunset on the Consumer Health Information Hub and allow for ongoing activities to the extent funding is available.

MDOD is a strong supporter of, and participant in, the State’s plain language efforts - which took a huge step forward in 2022 when the General Assembly passed HB 1082, establishing the University of Maryland’s Herschel S. Luckinbill Center within the University of Maryland School of Public Health as the State’s Consumer Health Information Hub (the “Hub”). HB 1082 mandated that state and local agencies use plain language in public communications regarding health and safety. MDOD works with the Hub on these efforts, focusing on plain language and accessibility for people with disabilities.

The work done by the Hub complements additional State efforts to ensure other categories of information are available in plain language. MDOD works with the Department of Information Technology on implementation of Executive Order 01.01.2024.25, which established the Maryland Plain Language Initiative and requires state agencies to use plain language in their public communications. MDOD also partners with the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs to implement HB 1473 (2025), which updates requirements for state agencies’ language access plans to ensure essential government information is accessible to people with disabilities and limited English proficiency.

HB 882 continues Maryland’s commitment to promoting the use of plain language in important information regarding health care and government services. The use of plain language is critical to ensuring that all Marylanders—particularly those in the disability community and those with limited English proficiency—can access, understand, and act upon vital health information. The need for inclusive health literacy remains more important than ever.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Anne Blackfield, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

For these reasons, MDOD respectfully requests a **favorable report on HB 882**.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Beatty

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary, Department of Disabilities