



March 2, 2020

Bill: House Bill 691 Health Occupations - Nurse Practitioners - Certifications of Competency and Incapacity

Committee: Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Oppose

Dear Delegate Cullison,

The Maryland Association of Centers for Independent Living oppose House Bill 691 Health Occupations - Nurse Practitioners - Certifications of Competency and Incapacity. This bill expands the number of professionals able to sign a certificate of incompetency for a guardianship petition to include nurse practitioners, without requiring any specialization or training.

Centers for Independent Living are resource and advocacy organizations by people with disabilities for people with disabilities throughout the State of Maryland. We offer services including independent living skills training, advocacy, transition programs, and assistive technology support.

As the Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living, we are aware of the dangers of incompetency declarations for people with disabilities and the impact that guardianship decisions can have on our consumers. We have seen not only pressure from doctors that people's parents work to get guardianship but have also seen people declared incompetent in nursing facilities without the consideration of less restrictive alternatives.

We have grave concerns that this bill will strip the rights of people with disabilities and dismantle 30 years of progress that the Americans with Disabilities Act has made.

We urge you to consider the potential, unintended dangers of this piece of legislation.

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Accessible Resources for  
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