



# MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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



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## House Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2020

### HB 1282 – Criminal Procedure – Vulnerable Adult Registry

Position: Support with Amendments

The DD Coalition is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 1282 and its effort to address the critical need for an adult abuse registry so people who abuse, neglect, or exploit individuals with disabilities in the State of Maryland are prevented from obtaining subsequent positions in the human services industry simply by changing employers and location. **To ensure further protections, the DD Coalition supports with the following amendments:**

1. **Replace public access with limited and confidential access to the names on the database for legitimate employment-related reasons only, by State Medicaid and Medicare providers.** Broad, public access may have unintended consequences, including a negative impact on recruitment of high-quality direct support professionals. Limiting access to legitimate employment-related reasons, inhibits impermissible uses of the information.
2. **Include the name of an individual in the registry after one, and not two, founded complaints of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.** This will afford individuals with disabilities greater protection from serial abusers.
3. **Mandate an efficient and effective system to retrieve the information from the registry.** This will prevent bottlenecks in already strained provider hiring processes.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- HB 1282 provides for a registry of individuals who have founded complaints of abuse, neglect, and exploitation from any state agency.
- It does not provide for disclosure of case reports or identities of victims without their consent.
- It locates the database in the Maryland Department of Health, where it is would be most readily accessible to State Medicaid providers.

Because HB 1282 addresses ongoing issues, the DD Coalition **supports with amendments.**

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