



THE COORDINATING CENTER R
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 59

Title: Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions

Hearing Date: January 20, 2021

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center (The Center) supports *House Bill 147 – Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions*. This bill would establish a task force to review existing data on undergraduate and graduate students with chronic health conditions, and make recommendations on meeting students' needs, including the provision of accommodations.

The Center is an independent, care coordination organization with over 35 years of experience, coordinating services for more than 10,000 people with disabilities and complex medical needs across the state. We currently work with transition age receiving services and supports through multiple programs and Medicaid Waivers. We know first-hand the challenges young adults face when leaving the education system, including planning for the loss of services and supports under an Individual Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, or Medicaid Waiver limited to children and adolescents.

In most cases, individuals who received services or supports in elementary and secondary school must advocate for themselves for accommodations once they reach higher education. In many cases, a requested accommodation may not match what was provided through an IEP or 504 Plan, or be available at a particular college or university. The Center supports conducting a thorough review of the current challenges and needs of students with chronic health needs so they may be successful in higher education.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or (410) 693-4000.