



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0318
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION – SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES
(SELF-DIRECTION ACT)**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate K. Young

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0318 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members support all persons with developmental disabilities and we support the right for those persons to live their lives in the best possible way. For many, staying at home with a caretaker is infinitely preferable to being in an institution. If they are receiving the care and support they need, then the person(s) who are doing the care-taking should be reimbursed in the same manner as those who do care-taking in institutions.

What is important is that the person who has developmental disabilities is receiving the best support. This bill allows for alternative, and more home-based possibilities for providing that support and recognizes that those possibilities are valid and should receive funding.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.