



February 15, 2022

**Health and Government Operations Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

HB 451 State Finance and Procurement – Grants – Prompt Payment Requirement

Accessible Resources for Independence is a disability resource and advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities in Howard and Anne Arundel Counties. We are a small, but mighty nonprofit with a budget of around \$700,000 per year.

Accessible Resources for Independence is pleased to support HB 451 State Finance and Procurement – Grants – Prompt Payment Requirement. This bill ensures that small non-profits like ours are paid on a timely basis.

We have been providing services to Veterans and their families to keep veterans in their homes. We currently serve about 20 Veterans in this program. This program is paid as a fee-for-service, a set amount of money each month for each veteran and is run through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Aging and the Veteran's Administration. We currently have over \$95,000 in outstanding invoices, \$60,000 of which are older than 90 days. We are owed monies from 2018. The last payment we received was in May 2021 and each month we accumulate thousands of dollars in our accounts receivable. Because of this, we are unable to build our reserves and we spend countless hours in staff time trying to get some resolution to our tremendous and continuously growing accounts receivables. This impacts those we serve because it forces us to shift attention away from direct services to the administrative back end.

Maryland has a great opportunity to ensure that those non-profits serving some of the most vulnerable residents are treated equitably and fairly. **Accessible Resources for Independence urges the Health and Government Operations Committee to report favorably on HB 451.**

For more information, please contact Katie Collins-Ihrke, Executive Director, at 443-713-3914.

