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1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211

www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

Phone: 410.727.6352

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 660: Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (Student Job Training Reformation Act)

February 24, 2022

Position: Support with Amendment

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the state of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advocate for the legal rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM's work encompasses individual cases and systemic advocacy. DRM has a long history of representing students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system. DRM joins the Education Advocacy Coalition (EAC) in supporting House Bill 660 for the reasons stated in the EAC testimony, but submits separate testimony to address an additional issue.

The protection and advocacy system includes a number of federally-created programs; DRM houses all of those programs except for the Client Assistance Program (CAP), the protection and advocacy program for people who are dissatisfied with their vocational rehabilitation services. Although DRM used to house the CAP, the state of Maryland brought the program within state government more than 20 years ago, and the CAP program is now housed within DORS. DRM appreciates being included as a member of the Commission and would suggest that House Bill 660 be amended to include the CAP, DRM's sister protection and advocacy agency, as a member of the Commission.

Please reach out to Megan Jones at meganc@disabilityrightsmd.org or Leslie Seid Margolis at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 410-370-5730 with any questions.