

March 7, 2023

Testimony on Senate Bill 622
“End the Wait Act”
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1500 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 622, with the sponsor’s amendments, to make sure the \$30 million is used to provide community services to people waiting for services and to also allow the funds to be used to expand community capacity.

Over 18,000 Marylanders with developmental disabilities rely on services through the DDA Medicaid waivers, the community providers that provide those services, and the Department of Health, for the vital supports that enable them to live and work in their communities. Their families are also reliant on DDA-funded services so that they can continue to work and support their families, while their loved ones with developmental disabilities have access to the supports they need and want.

There are long waits (many years) from the date an individual gets on a waiting list for waiver services until they are able to receive the service from the State.

There are over 3,800 people on the waiting list for DDA services. Those people need services now.

There are over 4,000 additional people on the DDA “future request” list. The “future request” list is for people who may not need services or supports now, but may need them in the future.

The ‘wait list’ issue now goes back well more than 30 years – more than 30 years of inaction or temporary inadequate solutions. **We strongly support the position of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition, and we urge you to give Senate Bill 622 a favorable report with the sponsor’s amendments.**