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**Senate Bill 101 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services –  
Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion**

Senate Finance Committee

January 31, 2023

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is Maryland's designated Protection & Advocacy agency, and is federally mandated to defend and advance the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. In particular, DRM supports the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive appropriate supports and services to live safe and meaningful lives in their communities. SB 101 will improve the quality of behavioral health care delivered in primary care settings for Maryland Medicaid recipients by expanding their access to the proven Collaborative Care Model (CoCM).

CoCM is a validated, patient-centered, evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health care in primary care settings, which is where most people with mild to moderate behavioral health conditions first seek care. The model uses a team-based approach to deliver (1) care coordination and management; (2) regular, systematic monitoring and treatment using a validated clinical rating scale; and (3) regular, systematic behavioral health caseload reviews and consultation for patients. CoCM has been validated in over 80 randomized controlled trials and shown to improve health outcomes and save money, mostly via a reduction in unnecessary hospitalization and higher intensity levels of care.

Commercial health insurers in Maryland and Medicare are already reimbursing providers for delivering this model. An ongoing CoCM pilot in the Maryland Medicaid program has demonstrated "clinically significant improvement" in depression and anxiety symptoms for more than 65 percent of participants. It is time to end the pilot and join the 20+ other states that are providing CoCM broadly to their Medicaid recipients.

Disability Rights Maryland believes that Marylanders with behavioral health disabilities should receive services in their communities whenever possible. Care coordination and management are essential to improving outcomes, avoiding crises and ensuring that children and adults with behavioral health conditions are served in their communities whenever possible, avoiding out-of-home placements that traumatize and harm families.

This bill will improve behavioral health outcomes, save money, and keep people out of crisis. **For these reasons, Disability Rights Maryland urges this committee to pass SB 101.**