

2023-02-27 - SB732_BIAMD_Requests_Favorable_Report

Uploaded by: Bryan Pugh

Position: FAV



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Brain Injury Association of Maryland, Inc.
2200 Kernan Drive, Suite 810E
Baltimore, MD 21207

RE: IN FAVOR of Senate Bill 732

LETTER IN SUPPORT

The Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAMD) is a 40-year-old organization providing education, advocacy, and research. One of our primary missions is to operate an information and assistance hotline as part of the no wrong door system for accessing long-term care services. We respond to over 300 calls per month from individuals, family members, and professionals seeking information and assistance to help people living with brain injury. In addition, we provide resources, case management, trainings, events, and policy advocacy.

There are an estimated 605,000 Marylanders living with a brain injury. These individuals experience changes in their health, thinking, behavior, self-regulation, and social skills. These Marylanders deserve a seat at the table of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities. **SB 732** will provide those individuals that seat and the ability for their voice to be heard.

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOD) is an important advocate for individuals with disabilities in this state. It serves as the advisory body for the Maryland Department of Disabilities, which is charged with unifying and improving the delivery of services to people with disabilities. MCOD also plays an instrumental role in the development of the State Disabilities Plan, a comprehensive multi-year strategic plan that sets performance goals for all agencies in Maryland which serve people with disabilities. Individuals with brain injuries need to be given access to these important decisions, and SB 732 does just that.

The mantra, "Nothing about us without us" has been a rallying cry for the disability movement for over 50 years and expresses the ideal that individuals with disabilities know what it best for them. BIAMD is committed to the ideal that individuals with disabilities need to be front and center in all levels of the decision-making process and need to have a seat at every table where their issues are discussed.

We ask that this committee return a favorable report of SB 732.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Thomas Pugh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryan Thomas Pugh
Executive Director
Brain Injury Association of Maryland

2023 MOTA SB 732 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	SB 732 - Department of Disabilities - Maryland Commission on Disabilities - Membership
Hearing Date:	February 28, 2023
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 732 - Department of Disabilities - Maryland Commission on Disabilities - Membership*. The bill adds a person with traumatic brain injury (TBI) to sit on the Maryland Commission on Disabilities.

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOB) serves as the advisory body for the Maryland Department of Disabilities, which is charged with unifying and improving the delivery of services to people with disabilities. MCOB also participates in developing the State Disabilities Plan, a comprehensive multi-year strategic plan that sets performance goals for all agencies in Maryland which serve people with disabilities.

A TBI is a serious and potentially life-changing injury caused by a sudden blow to the head that damages the brain. Suffering a TBI can lead to physical and/or cognitive difficulties requiring intense rehabilitative care. It is far time Maryland recognizes that a TBI is a disability and people suffering from a TBI should have a seat at the table.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

IL Written Testimony SB732 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Basehart

Position: FAV



SB732 – Department of Disabilities-Maryland Commission on Disabilities-Membership - Support

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

Senate Finance Committee 02/28/2023

The Maryland Centers for Independent Living are in support of SB732. SB732 would ensure that the Maryland Commission on Disabilities has at least one member with a traumatic brain injury. The Commission on Disabilities serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Disabilities and reviews and provides input on the State Plan for Disabilities. Including a person with a traumatic brain injury will help to ensure that the needs of traumatic brain injury survivors and their families are not overlooked and are included in the State Plan on Disabilities.

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

Contact Information:

Sarah Basehart
Independence Now
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The IMAGE Center
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SB732_ MDOD_ FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hall

Position: FWA



DATE: February 28, 2023

BILL: SB732 Department of Disabilities - Maryland Commission on Disabilities - Membership
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Griffith,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support as favorable with amendments for **Senate Bill 732: Department of Disabilities-Maryland Commission on Disabilities-Membership**.

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOD) is MDOD's statutory board and advises MDOD on its departmental duties as the principal unit of State government responsible for developing, maintaining, revising, and enforcing statewide disability policies and standards throughout the units of State government. To ensure the MCOD reflects MDOD's constituents, there are several designated Governor appointed slots for disability representation such as physical disability, mental illness, Deaf, Blind, developmental and intellectual disability. A disability not currently represented is traumatic brain injury.

SB 732 amends the MCOD membership section of the Maryland Statute [Md. Human Services Code Ann. § 7-120](#) to include traumatic brain injury. Traumatic brain injury representation in Maryland currently has the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board under Maryland Department of Health and MDOD is represented on the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board.

Adding a MCOD slot specifically for traumatic brain injury is intended to balance the state government disability and traumatic brain injury constituent representation. This will result in Maryland having both the existing MDOD representation on the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board and a traumatic brain injury constituent voice on the MCOD.

The suggested amendments are designed to streamline an existing state initiative and to have the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs moved to MDOD.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary