

SB608 _MDOD_ FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hall

Position: FAV



DATE: March 10, 2023

BILL: Senate Bill 608: Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

Dear Chair Griffith,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for SB 608: Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council. As an ex-officio member of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), MDOD recognizes the importance of the history of the independent living movement and the federal intent in ensuring that the activities and work of the SILC operates freely and separately from the State, except as needed to comply with federal laws and requirements. Ensuring Marylanders with disabilities have control, whether over individual services or over the groups that represent them, such as the SILC, are values inherent in the legislation and creation of MDOD.

MDOD's testimony in support of this bill not only ensures the State's alignment with federal policy and intent but also reinforces the unique value MDOD offers to the state in elevating, representing, and supporting the disability community as they strive to increase their independence and control over independent living matters.

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

sign on letter for sb608 and hb53.pdf

Uploaded by: Hindley Williams

Position: FAV



LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 608 and House Bill 53

The undersigned organizations express our support for Senate Bill 608 and House Bill 53 which establish the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council as a part of Maryland government.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) along with the Centers for Independent Living were established by federal law¹ and work together to comprise the Maryland Independent Living Network. The Network works to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. The Network develops a State Plan to support the participation of persons with disabilities in their communities. The SILC monitors and evaluates the provision of services under the Plan, holds public hearings, and provides reports and resources to the community.

The Network embraces the “independent living philosophy” which includes consumer control, peer support, self-determination, and advocacy for people with disabilities to promote independence, inclusion, non-discrimination, and dignity for all people with disabilities.

SILC members are persons with disabilities and advocates or family members of persons with disabilities. State agency representatives participate as non-voting members. Members are appointed by the Governor as set forth in federal law. SILC staff are hired by the SILC. Federal law requires the SILC not be established within a State agency. All states and territories have SILCs and CILs. Many SILCs are created as independent organizations and many operate as non-profit organizations.²

CILs are non-profit agencies operated by and for people with disabilities. Seven CILs serve jurisdictions throughout Maryland and offer core services of Information and Referral; Advocacy; Peer Support; Independent Living Skills training, and Transition. Other services include: COVID 19 outreach and vaccination help; home accessibility modifications, assistive technology to support independence, providing skills training for employment, peer support, assistance to youth transitioning from high school and to people in nursing facilities moving back to their communities. **WHY** HB53 and SB608 provides statutory authorization for the SILC to promote its stability, independence and ability to incorporate and achieve its goals. The legislation conforms the SILC to federal law.

¹ In 1992, Section 705 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act authorized the creation of the Statewide Independent Living Council.

² SILCs organized as independent organizations and non-profits include those in the states of AK, AL, HI, IN, KS, ME, NC, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, WI. This list is not all inclusive.

We the undersigned strongly support this legislation.

The League For People with Disabilities

The ARC Maryland

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Shared Support Maryland, Inc.

Patient Providers, LLC

Disability Rights Maryland

Public Justice Center

National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Homeless Persons Representation Project

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Maryland Centers for Independent Living

Laurie Elinoff SB608 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie Elinoff

Position: FAV

SB608 FAVORABLE

Good afternoon –esteemed members of the Finance Committee

My name is Laurie Elinoff. I am a constituent of District 31 and I am a PPWD-Proud Person with a Disability. For more than 15 years, I have served in some capacity on the Governor-appointed Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council. I have served as both a Council member and a passionate volunteer.

Today I urge you to vote yes for House Senate Bill 608, which puts the Statewide Independent living Council(SILC) in statute. This will allow for true compliance with federal assurances and regulations to act as an independent agency of the government.

To appreciate the utmost importance and value of this legislation you must first appreciate the birth of the independent living movement and centers for independent living. The independent living movement began with a person with significant disabilities, Ed Roberts. Ed came down with polio as a teenager just before the Salk vaccine was discovered. As a result, his limitations were so significant that the California Division of Vocational Rehabilitation deemed him too severe to go to college and eventually work. Ed Roberts fought

this rejection through his advocacy and won. Not only was he the first person with a severe disability to go to UC Berkley, he would eventually become employed as the California Director of Vocational Rehabilitation-the very agency that rejected him years before.

Ed's greatest legacy is in being one of the creators of the very first center for independent living in Berkley California. This was a center that continued the work that Ed Roberts and the rolling quads started on the college campus. The CIL-Center for independent living- would be the first of hundreds around the country , centers run by and for people with disabilities; Centers that offer services that result in people with disabilities making decisions for themselves on how to live their best lives.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is a Governor appointed Council. The Council and Maryland's seven centers work together to strengthen independent living services in Maryland. The law requires that the Centers and the Council develop, execute and evaluate a three year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) to best provide the five core independent living services to Marylanders with disabilities.

The seven centers for independent living (CILS) are operated by and for people with disabilities and they serve Marylanders all over the state. They receive over 2 million dollars in federal funding. In order to continue receiving this funding, they must

have a Statewide Independent Living Council-a SILC, that operates separately from any state agency.

Currently the SILC receives \$139,000 in Federal Funding through MSDE-DORS which acts as the designated state entity.

Right now, the SILC is not a free standing entity. Thus it is not able to receive and expend funds for its own employees. Instead it must use a government agency, DORS, to expend funds, hire personnel and to carry out the work of the Council. In fact, this has prevented the Maryland SILC from hiring a much needed Executive Director. This situation does not allow for the independence outlined in Federal Assurances from the Administration for Community Living.

A skilled Executive Director is critical to so many things

Critical to committee work-taking minutes and following up on action steps

Critical to inspiring new Council volunteers

Critical to building a foundation of unification for Maryland IL partners. The independent living partners are The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

Critical to carrying forward a strong legacy and leading the Council into the future and so much more

I will conclude by urging you to follow the wise example of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. Please vote to put the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council in statute which will allow for compliance with federal assurances and regulations to act as an independent agency of government. Please vote yes on Senate Bill 608. Thank you.

SB608_Lorna-MaeSilcott_FAV

Uploaded by: Lorna-Mae Silcott

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 608
Senate Finance Committee Operations
Testimony by Lorna-Mae Silcott Maryland SILC Secretary
03/10/2023

The Statewide Independent Living Council, a majority of whose members are people with disabilities, in cooperation with Centers for Independent Living develops and monitors a cross-disability State Plan every three years to enhance service delivery throughout Maryland.

Currently there are seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in Maryland. They were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities. 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, which includes individuals transitioning out of nursing homes and institutions back into the community and students transitioning from high school into the community and college.

The Centers for Independent Living prides themselves on serving with excellence.

Melissa Blubaugh Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Melissa Blubaugh

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 608
Senate Finance Committee
Testimony Presented by Melissa Blubaugh
March 10, 2023.

Hello, my name is Melissa Blubaugh. I am the Vice-chair of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council or Maryland SILC.

The Maryland SILC is an autonomous state entity working with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to increase and maximize the impact of independent living services in Maryland.

The SILC is composed of Governor-appointed volunteers, a majority of whom are individuals with disabilities. Council members also represent diverse cultural backgrounds and geographic locations.

One very important distinction is that the SILC is the only cross-disability advisory organization in Maryland.

The State qualifies for federal independent living (IL) funds because of the existence of the SILC and the SILC's federal mandate to develop a three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

The SPIL is developed by the SILC and the CIL Directors to identify and outline IL priorities and needs for the state's citizens with disabilities, as well as designate where the funds are disbursed across the state.

These IL funds annually total over \$2 million dollars to benefit Maryland residents with disabilities like me.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Melissa Blubaugh
Vice-chair, Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (Maryland SILC)
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LaVale, MD 21502
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bullis Senate Finance testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Bullis

Position: FWA



Senate Bill 608

Senate Finance Committee

March 10, 2023

Favorable With Amendments

Michael Bullis, Treasurer, Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

Chair and members of the Committee:

This Bill creates the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council in statute which allows it to receive and expend federal funds in accordance with federal law and create plans and recommendations for the delivery of Independent Living Services in Maryland.

The unique thing about independent living Centers is that they are operated by people with disabilities. It is likely that receiving our services may be the only time that a person with a disability will receive services and supports from someone with a significant disability.

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.

I urge your support and thank you.

FWA SB608.pdf

Uploaded by: vince mcavoy

Position: FWA

FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT HB0608

Dear Senators,

We have an increased problem of bills being introduced in this vein where potential services are being given to Maryland residents (in this case, House bill testimony was paneled by blind people and other disabled) throughout the state with a continual woke theme involving, sexuality or how people have sex.

I find this to be coercion of getting funds directed to this non-profit started.... akin to the LGBTQ woke crowd putting a gun to a blind person's head denying services unless someone has sex is introduced into the bill.

Please strike this part of the bill on Page 3

4 (I) DIVERSITY BASED ON SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL
5 ORIENTATION, RACE, ETHNICITY, AND ECONOMIC STATUS; AND

I strongly urge you to vote to stop drafting bills that needlessly inject sexuality. In what they call their "spectrum", the nature and narrative of these bullying lobbyists and sponsors can be overtly pedophilic in nature. Look at HB283, look at HB131, see HB119.

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/amds/bil_0009/HB0119_25382001.pdf

Further, blind people aren't able to see if this perversion is around them, somehow involved or represented in the services they receive. Yet they can be used as "props" for this perverse sub-culture.

Please stop this climate of injecting sexual perversions into every bill starting in Annapolis. I expect kind of foul, liberal mess from Baltimore but not Annapolis.

Thanks for your consideration and time.

humbly
~vince

vince mcavoy po 41075 baltimore md