



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.