



February 12, 2023

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 255 / HB 322: Public Health – Home and Community Based Services for Children**

Members of the Maryland Senate's Finance Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members advocating for the care and needs of our children with disabilities, we fully support HB 322 / SB 255.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic there was so much need across the state for these kinds of support programs. Now, coming out the pandemic, there is even more than ever for children centered health care and behavioral health care services program services and family centered therapies.

We support programs that expands the Maryland Dept of Health and Behavioral Health Administration's number of slots available to children with a variety of special needs for wrap around services, case management, and in-home intensive support services.

But 100 slots within BHA the system is not enough to meet all of the need across the entire state's behavioral support system. We would love to see an even larger expansion of this kind of program. Especially as we realize the many benefits of Maryland's Blueprint in reforming the delivery of wrap around service programs that exist within the education and health care spaces of government agencies.

We would like to see this kind of support system needs to be baked into the recipe of health and developmental support programs as we move forward with the care and well-being of ALL of our children under The Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Maryland children need these types of support programs to be in place, and expanded, to help service all of the need, not just some of the need, within our communities. Please help our students build a brighter future, with improved outcomes for all children, especially those a variety of health challenges.

We ask that your committee support HB 322 / SB 255, and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony.

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