



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding. This bill will require that the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) in the State Department of Education and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in MDH to enter into a memorandum of understanding, the terms of which will include a data sharing agreement for the medical and psychological records of mutual clients in order to expedite decisions regarding eligibility for services.

Maryland's DDA and DORS have a long history of successfully coordinating with one another in order to improve quality and timeliness of services for participants who interact with services from both departments. In 2018, DDA established an MOU with DORS that outlines joint training, collaboration, and engagement between the two departments to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to Competitive Integrated Employment opportunities in their community.¹

The MOU proposed in HB 870 will address a significant opportunity for improved collaboration between DDA and DORS, and will follow a collaboration model which is already present in some other states. Presently, DDA and DORS applications may require similar or identical pieces of information to make eligibility determinations for service. MDH supports efforts to ensure the compliant and safe sharing of applicable data to expedite the eligibility process and ensure access.

By formalizing and expediting the transfer of client information between MDH and DORS, numerous benefits may be realized by Maryland residents. In particular, Marylanders seeking

¹ Memorandum of Understanding Between Maryland State Department of Education's Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. 21 June 2018.

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/DDA%20DORS%20MOU%20signed%206-21-18.pdf>

services would receive more efficient access to support on their path to competitive integrated employment within their community.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott".

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary