



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