



SB582 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access – Behavioral Health Model for Maryland Support

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

Senate Finance Committee 03/07/2023

The Maryland Centers for Independent Living are in support of SB582.

SB582 Will increase access to affordable, appropriate, comprehensive behavioral health care across Maryland. SB582 will establish Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, modeled similar to Federally Qualified Health Centers, as well as creating a pilot program for Value Based Purchasing that focuses on quality of care rather than quantity. These will help to rebalance the behavioral health system away from a focus on crisis services to one that focuses on providing individuals the services and supports necessary to avoid crisis in the first place, thus helping to alleviate our already overburdened Emergency Departments and In-patient programs.

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.

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