



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

*SB 582: Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access  
(Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)*

February 28, 2023

**Position: Support with Amendments**



8601 Robert Fulton Dr  
Suite 140  
Columbia, MD 21046

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



1500 Union Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211

There are few services in place for people with IDD and their families to address behavioral health care before a crisis. People with IDD experience co-occurring behavioral health challenges at a higher rate than the general population, yet experience significantly more barriers to access and treatment. In fact, families report that it is extremely difficult to find a mental health professional to treat their loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability.



8835 Columbia 100 Pky  
Suite P  
Columbia, MD 21044

We appreciate the focus on access to behavioral health care SB 582 provides, and the acknowledgement of people with IDD through representation of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition and Disability Rights Maryland on the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access. To further address the needs of people who experience co-occurring disabilities, we strongly recommend additional amendments to ensure people with IDD and their families get the services and supports they need.



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

217 E Redwood Street  
Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Page 5, after line 3:

- ADD: **(XX) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WITH EXPERIENCE AS A CONSUMER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**
- ADD: **(XXI) ONE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WITH EXPERIENCE AS A CONSUMER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**



7000 Tudsbury Road  
Windsor Mill, MD  
21244

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- ADD: **(5) PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

A specific workgroup should focus on the specific barriers to behavioral health care for people with IDD and make recommendations about how to increase community-based treatment options, wrap around supports, and crisis prevention; how the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Behavioral Health Administration can work together to better support people; and address other barriers to treatment, including training.

Contact: Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and Chair of the Maryland DD Coalition, [RLondon@md-council.org](mailto:RLondon@md-council.org)