

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Committee on Education, Energy,
and the Environment



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 13, 2023

SB 572 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Employed Individuals With Disabilities

Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Esteemed Members of the Finance Committee:

SB 572 is legislation concerning “Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals With Disabilities.” It ensures Marylanders with disabilities who wish to work and pursue marriage can do so without financial disincentives.

Individuals with disabilities have been historically recognized as one of the most underemployed populations throughout the country. Inflexible policy with archaic limitations has limited growth opportunities for these individuals.

The current regulations impacting Maryland’s Employed Individuals with Disabilities, known as the EID program, create strict limits on income, assets, and resources pertaining to applicants and spouses. Eligibility limits applicants who are not married to make less than 300% of the Federal poverty level and have assets and resources less than \$10,000. These limits create major barriers that negatively impact applicants and participants. Most applicants are forced to get divorced before enrollment or lose eligibility altogether.

SB572 will change the narrative and will empower workers with disabilities to work without excessive limits and to pursue marriage without being penalized. There are numerous stories of how participants have been negatively impacted and we will share some of them during our testimony.

Finally, I will be addressing a major flaw in the fiscal note during my verbal testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young".

Senator Karen Lewis Young