



February 21, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of HB 504 / SB 168: Maryland Developmental Disability Council - Establishment**

Members of the Maryland House's Health and Gov't Operations Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members advocating for the care and needs of our children with disabilities, codified into Maryland state law.

We support this bill which would establish a state level Maryland Disability Council to student the needs of students with disabilities and work to help improve overall services as well as outcomes for all of our children.

This type of agency we hope would have the ability to addresses issues related to health care, social emotional learning, academics, school environments for children with disabilities, and transportation related to access to care for these students. We would like to see this kind of state agency oversee and foster more inclusion and services for students across all life settings. And we trust that it will be baked into the recipe of overall health and developmental support programing as we move forward with the educating and caring for ALL of our children under Maryland's Blueprint Law through wrap around supports. But especially those children who have been marginalized and largely forgotten by the health and education systems for far too long.

Maryland children need these types of support programs to be in place, and enhanced, as we help them build toward a brighter future, and improved outcomes for all children, and especially those with disabilities.

Please support HB 504 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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