



**HB 53 Statewide Independent Living Council**

Presented in support on Behalf of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

House Health Government Operations

February 14, 2023

My name is Rose Carey and I am the Chair of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council. This Bill establishes the Statewide Independent Living Council as a body that can hire its staff and pay its bills.

The main purpose of the Council is to create a State Plan for Independent Living to provide services for all Marylanders with disabilities.

The delivery of services is provided through the seven Independent Living Centers. The 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.

The State Independent Living Council, CIL staff and their boards are composed of at least 51% people with disabilities.

CILs are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

This Bill will allow the Governor appointed Council members to follow federal law and improve services to people with disabilities throughout the State. We urge your support for HB53.