



DATE: February 28, 2023

BILL: House Bill 504: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for House Bill 504: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment.

Under House Bill 504, The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (The Council) would become an independent unit of state government. The Council is already operating in this manner under the Department of Disabilities. The Council was established in 1971 in Maryland by Executive Order, which was most recently revised in 1987.

This bill will codify the existing operations and align The Council and the revised Executive Order with the federal Developmental Disability Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act). The DD Act is the federal legislation which establishes a Developmental Disabilities Council in each state and territory. The Council receives 100% of its funding from the federal government and must comply with the DD Act.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary