



**SB732 – Department of Disabilities-State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Maryland Commission on Disabilities-Alterations - Support**

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

House Health and Government Operations Committee 03/28/2023

The Maryland Centers for Independent Living are in support of SB732. SB732 would bring the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy under the Department of Disabilities and ensure that the Maryland Commission on Disabilities includes at least one member with a traumatic brain injury. The Commission on Disabilities serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Disabilities and reviews and provides input on the State Plan for Disabilities. Including a person with a traumatic brain injury will help to ensure that the needs of traumatic brain injury survivors and their families are not overlooked and are included in the State Plan on Disabilities.

The seven 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. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

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