



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 504

Title: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 504 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment*. This bill will create the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of State government with the authority to conduct and support advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building efforts to promote inclusive communities and equity in services for individuals with disabilities in the State, research best practices and provide related training and technical assistance to communities in the State, and inform State and local leaders about disability issues.

The Council plays an essential role in advising the state on disabilities policy issues. By making the Council a part of state government, the bill recognizes the value of the Council's work in advising State agencies.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.