



DATE: February 14, 2023

BILL: House Bill 53: Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations

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 53: Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). As an ex-officio member of the State SILC, MDOD recognizes the importance of the history of the independent living movement and the federal intent in ensuring that the activities and work of the Statewide Independent Living Council operates freely and separately from the State, except as needed to comply with federal laws and requirements. Ensuring Marylanders with disabilities have control, whether over individual services or over the groups that represent them, such as the SILC, are values inherent in the legislation and creation of MDOD.

MDOD's testimony in support of this bill not only ensures the State's alignment with federal policy and intent but also reinforces the unique value MDOD offers to the state in elevating, representing, and supporting the disability community as they strive to increase their independence and control over independent living matters

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".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary