



February 8, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 155 / SB 212: Genetic Testing Protection Act of 2023

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Health and Gov't Operations Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members and support our local non-profits that fill necessary roles in our non-profit support and services networks. We fully support HB 155 / SB 212 and the enhanced protections that it brings to our families and children.

Family finances as it relates to all types of insurance is a hotly debated topic in our communities for families of children with disabilities, year after year. Short- and long-term care, as well as insurance other types of policies (and their deductibles) that cover the care for our ourselves and our children are wildly expensive, and a lingering point of enormous emotional and financial stress for so many of our families.

Parents are often forced to spend precious time on the telephone with insurance companies to fight for the coverage that they and their children were promised when their insurance companies sold them coverage. But the goal posts shift quite often for our coverages, policy deductibles and policy premiums. Just when you meet a policy standard, they move the goal posts again and force families to jump through even more hoops just to get essential coverage for care, therapies and equipment that were previously covered. Things are that essential and very necessary for the short- and long-term care of a family member.

That just wrong on so many levels, and I dare say immoral. To treat any of our children and families in this manner is unconscionable but it happens every day in our state. Please work to strengthen the existing genetic protection laws, and deny the insurance companies something else that they can weaponize to use against our families and our children. Let us deny them the ability to use our genetic profiles against our families. Please vote to protect our family's short & long term coverages, as well as our family's long term financial stability. We ask the committee to please support HB 155 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo
Public Policy Director | richceruolo@gmail.com
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy Parent Advocacy Consortium
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>