



Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
HB 331: Election Law - Candidate Expenditures - Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses
March 27, 2024
Position: Support

The Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC) is a coalition of the five Down syndrome organizations in Maryland as well as individuals with Down syndrome and their family members who have come together to advocate for improved quality of life for all individuals with Down syndrome throughout the state of Maryland. MDAC works in coalition with other disability and advocacy organizations across the state and supports many legislative and policy efforts.

MDAC supports HB331, which would allow candidates for political office to include reasonable expenses for caregiving services, incurred as a direct result of campaign activity and necessary to promote the candidacy of the candidate, as campaign-related expenses. Critically for our community, these caregiving services can include the “direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or an individual with a disability for whom a candidate has direct caregiving responsibility.”

It is important for the public to know that caregiving expenses for children and for dependents with disabilities are permissible campaign expenditures. This bill will create awareness that one barrier faced by parents of children and dependent adults with disabilities when they wish to run for political office has been removed.

The more perspectives found within our government, the more representative it is of the people. The perspectives of parents of disabled children and adults are unique and are underrepresented in our government. MDAC supports participation in civic life and advocacy efforts by individuals with Down syndrome and their family members, and for these reasons, MDAC supports HB331.

Respectfully submitted,

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