



February 21, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Chair Marc Korman  
Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: House Bill 773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

**I am writing to you on behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region in SUPPORT of HB773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.** This legislation would provide more opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enjoy accessible boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding.

At The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we serve over 3,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with disabilities to live the lives they choose by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

Many of the individuals we support have enjoyed sailing through Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating Therapeutic Sailing (CRAB) on the Chesapeake Bay. The experience provides a refreshing chapter in their spring and summer season, and the staff at CRAB has helped them feel more empowered by teaching them new skills and presenting a form of independence. With the establishment of the Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund, more opportunities for accessible sailing and boating will be created for people with disabilities across the state.

We urge the Committee to support this accessible legislation and report it favorably. At The Arc, we are committed to creating more inclusive communities with access to activities that make a difference in the lives of the people we support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathon Rondeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathon Rondeau  
President & CEO