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SB347: Medical Cannabis – Employees in Health Care Settings  
Caring for Qualifying Patients  
Finance Committee  
February 15, 2024  
**Letter of Information**

The Arc Maryland is a statewide disability advocacy organization that is dedicated to the preserving the rights, and improving the quality of life, of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The medical use of Cannabis and cannabinoids has been shown to have beneficial health impacts for some people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Medical Cannabis can effectively be used in treatment to reduce anxiety, reduce pain, increase appetite, control inflammation and muscle spasms, and help manage seizures. For these reasons, medical cannabis is referred to as a miracle treatment by some families connected to The Arc and we are hopeful for its expanded availability and use to address behavioral and physical health needs.

Although cannabis was legalized in Maryland this past year, cannabis continues to be illegal under federal law and is categorized as a Schedule 1 controlled substance.

Providers like The Arc deliver Home and Community Based Services under a Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver. The Waiver allows people with developmental disabilities to receive institutional-level services in their home communities, and allows the state to draw a federal funding match on state funds utilized for these critical services.

Prior to passage of this bill, we hope there is a thorough analysis into how the authority, created through this legislation, and activity to administer medical cannabis may impact our ability to receive federal funding matches.

Respectfully,

Ande Kolp, Executive Director [akolp@thearcmd.org](mailto:akolp@thearcmd.org)