

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Members

Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I write today to urge your strong support for **Maryland HB1473, the Access to Public Services for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency and Individuals with Disabilities Act**. In the wake of the recent repeal of Executive Order 13166, which once safeguarded language access at the federal level, Maryland now has a pivotal opportunity—and responsibility—to step up where federal protections have fallen away.

This legislation is not just about policy; it is about **people—our neighbors, our families, and our communities**—who rely on clear, accessible communication to receive essential public services. No one should be denied access to healthcare, emergency assistance, or government resources simply because of a language barrier or disability. **HB1473 ensures that every Maryland resident, regardless of language proficiency or ability, has an equal chance to navigate and benefit from public services that are meant for all.**

With federal protections eroding, Maryland can set a powerful precedent by reaffirming our commitment to equity, inclusion, and accessibility. **This is a moment for leadership. This is a moment for action.** I urge you to support HB1473 and ensure that no resident of Maryland is left behind.

Thank you for your time and dedication to serving all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Flávia Lima
Interpreter/Translator