



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 433

Title: Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy and Maryland as a Model Employer Initiative

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center supports *Senate Bill 433 – Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy and Maryland as a Model Employer Initiative – Established*. The bill creates the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy under the Department of Disabilities.

The Coordinating Center provides care coordination to nearly 10,000 Marylanders annually to individuals enrolled in Maryland Medicaid programs, including the Community First Choice Program, and other home and community-based service waivers and programs. Our goal is to support our clients in living as independently as possible within their own communities. Many of our clients with disabilities aspire to work, yet they face significant barriers, such as limited job opportunities, insufficient support for workplace accommodations, and transportation challenges. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was twice the rate as for people without disabilities.ⁱ The Coordinating Center believes that Maryland can be in the forefront of addressing this issue with the establishment of the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy.

Please vote favorably on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/disabl.pdf>