



February 12, 2025

Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor Housing Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB430 –Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program – Upper Age Limit – Prohibition – Support

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we write in support of ***HB430 - Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program – Upper Age Limit.***

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living their chosen lives by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

The Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program, administered by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), provides medical assistance to eligible working Marylanders with disabilities. This assistance covers most medical services for those without health insurance, saves individuals with Medicare thousands of dollars per year, and supplements private insurance, which does not always cover necessary services.

HB430 would expand eligibility for the program by prohibiting MDH from establishing an upper age limit for receiving EID Program services. This legislation would remove barriers to competitive employment, encourage individuals who wish to work beyond the age of 65 to continue doing so while remaining eligible for necessary services and supports, and promote real jobs with real wages by eliminating income and asset limits.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to the services and supports they need to work and thrive in their communities. For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Rondeau', is written over a large, stylized orange and yellow brushstroke graphic that spans the bottom half of the page.

Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

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