



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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### House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 5, 2025

### HB 1244: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment

Position: **Support with Sponsor Amendments**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), a statewide public policy organization led by people with developmental disabilities and their families, creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to lead the lives they want with the support they need. The Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. As such, **we support ensuring DDA's existing Waiver Advisory Council (WAC) has a broader representation of community organizations, and the responsibility to make more recommendations.** To make that happen, the following technical amendments are needed:

- Add ***The Arc Maryland and Maryland Association of Community Services*** explicitly as members in 7-12B-03.
- Add more to 7-12B-05(A)(2) to ensure the WAC provides advice and makes recommendations to DDA about service delivery and access to services, ***including implementation strategies regarding cost efficiency, flexibility, and system modernization.***
- Clarify that voting members appointed under certain sections are appointed for 2 year terms, and eligible for 2 terms in a row.

#### WHAT does this bill do?

- Codifies and expands the existing WAC to provide advice and make recommendations to DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waivers operated by DDA.
- Ensures the WAC includes representatives from statewide organizations that work with and for people with developmental disabilities, as well as people with lived experience who receive Medicaid waiver services in both delivery models – self-directed services and community provider, families, and providers.

#### WHY is this important?

- **Nothing about us without us!** HB 1244 outlines that the purpose of the WAC is to ***foster meaningful engagement and establish a feedback loop with all stakeholders.***
- Ensures the WAC adheres to person-centered thinking, diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and evidence-based and data-driven discussion and problem solving. **Almost 20,000 Marylanders rely on the Developmental Disabilities Administration for vital community supports – whether through community providers or self-directed services – that enable them to live, work, and thrive in their communities.**

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