



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

House Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 430: Employed Individuals with Disabilities – Upper Age Limit – Prohibition

February 12, 2025

Position: Support



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CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

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The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. HB 430 would do just that. The Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program extends Medical Assistance health benefits to Marylanders that work. **HB 430 is an important step to ensure more people with disabilities can work and receive the support they need to do so.**

WHAT does this bill do?

- Prohibits the Department of Health from establishing an upper age limit on eligibility to receive EID Program services.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Removes barriers to competitive employment.** People with disabilities want real jobs with real wages, but face various barriers, including the lack of services and support to help them. Medicaid is an important source of coverage for services that support the ability of people with disabilities to work, such as personal assistance services, prescription drugs, and assistive technology.
- **Helps people with disabilities maintain access to these critical services.** The EID Program provides medically necessary services and supports to ensure people with disabilities can work. When the Program was created, perhaps many people retired at 65, but that is not true anymore. **Last year, the Department was required to report on the impact of increasing the age limit, which was an important step. Many people work beyond age 65 and those that want to should continue to receive the services and supports they need to continue to be productive, active employees. This is the next step.**
- **Promotes real jobs with real wages.** By removing income and some asset limits, people can keep their services while also advancing their careers, getting pay raises, and saving for retirement.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to the services and supports they need and want to be able to work and thrive in their communities. However, the amount, purpose, and timing of such efforts must take into consideration the needs of all Marylanders with disabilities. Funding for this bill should not be offset by limiting essential funding for other critical needs, most immediately the Developmental Disabilities Administration community services that thousands of Marylanders depend upon.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.