

HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

House Bill 1066: Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access—Membership and Workgroups

Date: March 5, 2024

Position: Support

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the State of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM submits this testimony in support of House Bill 1066, which would add members to the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access and require a new Commission workgroup focused on improvement of health, social, and economic outcomes related to substance use.

As an appointed member of the Commission, DRM particularly supports the expansion of the Commission to include a representative of a provider of harm reduction services and individuals with lived experience. DRM also appreciates the focus of the required workgroup on improvement of health, social and economic outcomes related to substance use. Adding a substance use workgroup to this Commission and including a provider of harm reduction services in particular should result in a more holistic approach to mental health policymaking in Maryland.

For these reasons, DRM supports House Bill 1066.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis, lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Seid Margolis
Managing Attorney and Policy Counsel