



March 5, 2025

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

RE: HB1244 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment – Support

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we write in support of **HB1244 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Advisory Council**.

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

The purpose of the Waiver Advisory Council within the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is to advise and provide recommendations on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for Medicaid waiver programs. The council fosters meaningful engagement with various stakeholders, including people with lived experiences and representatives of people with IDD. Currently, our Chief Program Officer, Matt Morgan, serves on the council and believes that expanding its membership and scope will further enhance DDA programs and services.

Now more than ever, we need a collective and collaborative approach to address the growing demand for DDA-related waiver programs. Providing stakeholders with opportunities to study, discuss, and establish best practices for Medicaid waiver program system design—including application regulations and policies, service delivery and access to services, federal waiver assurances, and various quality enhancement efforts—is essential to supporting the IDD community. HB1244 would codify the existing Waiver Advisory Council into law and expand its membership to include additional statewide associations.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB1244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathon Rondeau".

Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

thearcCCR.org

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