



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

HB0866 - Workgroup for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing - Extension

March 26, 2026

Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is a statewide advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We work to protect and advance the rights of people with disabilities and to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

The Arc Maryland supports HB0866, sponsored by Delegate Aaron Kaufman, because it will improve the lives of Marylanders who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

Many deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing Marylanders face challenges navigating state systems like healthcare, housing, employment, mental health care, and public benefits assistance.

Case Managers offer coordinated support by connecting individuals with appropriate services and programs, coordinating communication access and accommodations, and assisting with interagency navigation.

Maryland's Workgroup for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing plays a critical role in making recommendations for these specialized case management services. They also study and assess programs that support educational, employment, health, and social opportunities for individuals. Their recommendations help identify the barriers in communication access to improve the quality of life of individuals in the community.

Providing the workgroup with the proper time to submit its report and findings, by December 1, 2028, will improve case management services in Maryland, and ensure more efficient, accountable, and equitable access to services.

For these reasons, The Arc Maryland supports HB0866 and requests a favorable report.

For additional information, please contact:

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