



TESTIMONY FOR SB0583
Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services Manual –
Public Comment

Bill Sponsor: Senator Jennings

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0583 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Members of the self-directed services community rely heavily on the Self-Directed Services Manual to determine how support is administered. Changes to that manual without their input, and without transparency cause immediate disruption to a Marylanders who need our care and concern.

This bill would –

- **Require notice** from the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities before any changes are made to the Self-Directed Services Manual.
- **Mandate a public comment period of at least 90 days** after notice is provided, during which the Deputy Secretary must receive and consider public feedback.
- **Prohibit adoption of proposed changes** until the public comment period has ended.

Almost every government publication has notice and comments requirements. This one should too.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.