



**Senate Bill 721 – Developmental Disabilities Administration – Services – Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph’s Act)**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**March 3, 2026**

Good afternoon, my name is Scott Evans, and I am the CEO of The Benedictine School located in Ridgely in Caroline County. Benedictine is a nonpublic special education school and adult community service provider for children and adults with developmental disabilities. I am here today in support of SB 721, both as a professional in the field and as a friend of a family that is currently going through a situation similar to one described by Ralph’s sister.

Last fall I was approached by a family I have known for the past 10 years to discuss a unique situation they are facing. Joe and Julie live and work in Queen Annes County and we met through our son’s being on the same swim team. Joe’s parents live in upstate New York where his brother receives services through a local community provider and is funded through a Medicaid waiver program in New York. Joe’s father has been recently diagnosed with Dementia and has been in and out of the hospital and rehabilitation facilities. His mother has been supporting her husband’s care while juggling caring for her son. This has also taken a toll on the mental and physical health of Joe’s aging mom.

Joe asked me about support options in Maryland when it becomes apparent that his parents can no longer support his brother in New York. Joe would like to have his brother move to Maryland at that point where Joe can take over the role of primary advocate and supporter for his brother. Joe and his family are doing the right thing by planning now for what will be an emotional and difficult situation for their family sometime in the near future. SB 721 would ease the anxiety of this transition on Joe and his brother. SB 721 would give a pathway for a family like Joe’s and ensure their loved one is properly supported through a difficult family transition.

As a professional in the field, I see the shift of primary advocate and care giver from parents to siblings often, and each year it is increasing. While each family dynamic is different, SB 721 would offer a family options on how best to support their loved one.

In closing, I respectfully ask for your support of SB 721 for MD families who are quietly working through the same issues as Joe and Ralph’s family.