

My name is Sedia Ngofa, and I am a developmental disability care provider in Maryland. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0742.

In my role, I support individuals with developmental disabilities who rely on Medicaid and waiver services for daily living supports, healthcare access, and community-based services. These services are not optional — they are essential to health, safety, and stability. When Medicaid coverage or waiver services are interrupted, even temporarily, the impact on the people I support is immediate and often devastating.

I have seen firsthand how administrative delays, missed notices, and system failures can result in individuals being disenrolled through no fault of their own. When coverage ends unexpectedly, people lose access to medications, therapies, personal supports, and critical services that help them remain in their homes and communities. Providers are put in the impossible position of choosing between continuing care without reimbursement or stepping back from services that people depend on to survive.

SB0742 addresses this problem by requiring the State to follow timelines, provide assistance to prevent Medicaid and waiver services from ending, and reinstate eligibility when individuals are disenrolled for certain reasons. Importantly, it makes clear that Maryland cannot terminate someone's Medicaid coverage when the State has failed to meet its own obligations to keep that person continuously enrolled. This is a fair and necessary safeguard for both individuals and providers.

From a provider perspective, continuity of coverage is essential for continuity of care. When services are disrupted, individuals experience regression, increased behavioral and health challenges, and heightened risk of hospitalization or institutionalization. These disruptions are not only harmful to the individuals we support — they also create greater costs and strain on the healthcare and service systems overall.

SB0742 promotes accountability, stability, and dignity. It supports people with developmental disabilities in maintaining consistent access to the services that allow them to live in their communities. It also supports providers who are trying to deliver reliable, high-quality care within a system that too often places the burden of administrative failures on vulnerable individuals.

I strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0742 and move this important legislation forward. Protecting people from losing essential healthcare and support services due to bureaucratic failures is both compassionate and fiscally responsible policy.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Marylanders with developmental disabilities.

Respectfully,
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