



February 27, 2026

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Providence of Maryland in strong support of SB 742, legislation that will protect critical services for Marylanders with disabilities.

Providence of Maryland supports nearly 300 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Anne Arundel and Charles Counties, helping them live full and meaningful lives in their communities. The services funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are essential to ensuring people have access to employment, community engagement, residential supports, and the stability they need to continue to live their best lives.

As you may also know, since January 2024, people have been losing their Medicaid and even when they reapply, some are being told they need to wait for a slot to open up before their DDA services can resume. The impact on people's lives can't be ignored. Interruptions in services mean disruptions to jobs, housing stability, daily routines, and the critical supports people rely on each day.

This has directly impacted 34 people who receive services at Providence. Rather than deny people the services that have been helping them live their best lives, Providence has continued to provide services without reimbursement from the state. To date this has resulted in a financial impact of just over \$85,000 to our organization.

Marylanders with disabilities deserve the same real connections, real opportunities, and real experiences that all of us need to live our best lives. Continued access to DDA services makes this possible. SB 742 will ensure the stability, opportunity, and independence that DDA services make possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karen Adams-Gilchrist

President and CEO

Office: 410-766-2212 | ProvidenceofMaryland.org
8223 Cloverleaf Dr. Suite 122 Millersville Md. 21108 | 79 Industrial Park Drive, Waldorf, Maryland, 20602

Real Connections. Real Opportunities. Real Experiences.