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**In Support of SB0742 (HB1445)
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration –
Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations
(Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)**

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB0742 (HB1445), the Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act.

Rock Creek Foundation (RCF) has served Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs for over 50 years. We are dually licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Behavioral Health Administration and support individuals with some of the most significant medical, psychiatric, and behavioral health complexities in the State.

SB0742 addresses a systemic breakdown that is destabilizing individuals with disabilities and the stability of Maryland's Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) system: **erroneous and prolonged DDA waiver disenrollment that interrupt reimbursement while essential services must continue.**

The Reality on the Ground

Since February 2024, Rock Creek Foundation has experienced 20 individuals disenrolled from the DDA waiver, with 15 individuals still disenrolled as of December 31, 2025

The individuals affected are not receiving optional services. They are living in licensed residential settings or receiving structured community supports that allow them to remain safe and integrated in the community.

When a waiver disenrollment occurs, services cannot simply pause. Residential homes must remain staffed 24 hours a day. Medications must be administered. Behavioral supports must remain in place. Safety plans must continue.

Providers are faced with a straightforward but difficult reality: services must continue to ensure the safety and stability of the individual, even if reimbursement is interrupted.

Financial Impact and System Stability

For Rock Creek Foundation alone, services delivered during periods of waiver disenrollment have totaled \$1,106,766.36 over the past 2.5 years, with \$664,841.59 still outstanding as of December 31, 2025.

These services were delivered to maintain safe housing, clinical oversight, and daily supports for Marylanders with significant disabilities.

Community providers operate almost entirely within Medicaid reimbursement structures. When reimbursement is delayed or interrupted for extended periods, providers continue paying:

- Direct Support Professional wages
- Overtime and shift coverage
- Food, utilities, and housing costs
- Transportation and medical coordination

While providers remain committed to continuity of care, prolonged reimbursement gaps create structural strain within Maryland's HCBS network.

Eligibility administration is foundational to system stability. When it functions predictably, providers can plan, invest in staff, and expand capacity. When it does not, financial uncertainty compounds across the system.

SB0742 helps reinforce the predictability and accountability necessary to maintain a stable community-based infrastructure.

Impact on Individuals and Families

Eligibility disruptions extend beyond waiver-funded services.

When an individual is disenrolled from the DDA waiver, the consequences can affect multiple interconnected systems of care. In addition to community-based supports, eligibility disruptions may also impact:

- Access to somatic medical care
- Access to psychiatric and behavioral health services
- Pharmacy coverage and medication continuity
- Medical transportation services
- Employment and day service participation

Why HB1445 Matters

SB0742 matters because reliable eligibility determinations are central to protecting due process, continuity of care, and the integrity of Maryland's Medicaid system.

Across Maryland, providers and advocates have raised concerns regarding erroneous or administratively flawed disenrollments affecting individuals who remain financially and clinically eligible for services.

SB0742 is not punitive legislation. It is protective legislation.

It strengthens accountability within eligibility determinations and helps ensure that administrative processes do not unintentionally destabilize:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Families relying on essential services
- Community-based provider organizations
- The direct support workforce

Conclusion

Maryland has made meaningful investments in community-based services for individuals with disabilities. The effectiveness of that system depends on predictable, fair, and stable eligibility processes.

SB0742 reinforces continuity of care, protects due process, and supports the sustainability of Maryland's HCBS network.

Rock Creek Foundation respectfully urges a favorable report on SB0742 to help ensure that Marylanders with disabilities are protected from unnecessary disruption and that the system designed to support them functions reliably and fairly.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

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