

March 3, 2026

Chair Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB721/HB1015 – Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act)

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Fello, we write in support of ***SB721/HB1015 – Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act)***.

Across Maryland, Fello is building communities where people belong. With a team of more than 650 employees, Fello supports over 5,000 people with disabilities each year – creating opportunities that empower people to live the lives they choose. From advancing equity and respect to expanding access and connection, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do.

SB721/HB1015 would require the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to establish an expedited eligibility process for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who move to Maryland from another state where they were already receiving services. The bill requires the DDA to issue an eligibility determination within 30 days for individuals who were receiving comparable home- and community-based supports and are relocating to live with an immediate family member who will now provide support. This ensures that eligibility decisions are not delayed due to relocation.

Families who move to Maryland often face duplicative paperwork, long wait times, and gaps in critical services. These interruptions can cause significant challenges and unnecessary health and safety risks. SB721/HB1015 promotes continuity of care and ensures Maryland remains welcoming to people with disabilities by providing a smoother, faster transition into essential services.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB721/HB1015.

Sincerely,



Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

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