

## **Testimony for the Record**

**Submitted to the Finance Committee for the Hearing for SB0742 on Tuesday 3/3/2026.**

**Witness Name: Lilian Mollel**

My son Julius Ricketts is 23 years old. He is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety disorder, apraxia, and depression, and he has limited speech. He averages 4 hours of sleep at night with the use of psychotropic medications.

He has extreme hyperactivity, restlessness, and diminished motor control where it's difficult for him to perform the simplest tasks. He also has behaviors such as physical aggression, self-injurious behavior, property destruction, impulsivity, and elopement. Julius has been taken to the hospital multiple times due to extreme behavioral crises. The last time he was at the hospital was in July of last year where he was admitted at Suburban Hospital for 30 days in the acute unit for medication adjustments. Julius requires round-the-clock, 1:1 support with daily living. For Julius to access the community, he needs line of sight attention.

Due to such intensive need for support, Julius was deemed by DDA to be eligible for the Medicaid Waiver, and he was approved for the "Enhanced Support" level since 2023. The Waiver provided staffing, behavioral support services, and also nursing support for medication regime monitoring. The Waiver helped tremendously with his everyday needs such as life skills, communication skills, independence, safety, as well as the opportunity to interact with his community daily. He would go out with staff to various activities such as swimming, table tennis, meeting with a friend, and long walks in the neighborhood and the park. The waiver also provided me with the support to take him to the doctor's office and to various therapies that help to stabilize him and treat his depression. None of these are now possible without the waiver. I can NOT manage alone. Julius is 6 feet tall and weighs 325 pounds, and I can't take him anywhere alone safely without a staff member with us. This means he is virtually trapped like a prisoner in his own house.

It was very shocking to learn that his waiver was dropped even after we submitted all the required documentation for redetermination timely.

The deadline to submit these documents was 01/31/2026. We submitted the documents on 01/08/2026 by email **and** by physical mail. Our re-determination submissions were not acknowledged until 02/13/2026, well after the deadline, and Julius was disenrolled from his Medicaid Waiver without any explanation as to why. I called the case manager at the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) several times and left voice and text messages and emailed her and received no response.

This is why I am strongly in favor of bill SB0742. This bill would ensure that Maryland would do its utmost to keep my son and people like my son continuously covered by Medicaid when they deserve to be. It would prevent those with disabilities from unexpectedly losing their Medicaid coverage through no fault of their own. I strongly believe that the legal protections that SB0742 would provide to Medicaid recipients like my son are vital to ensuring they get the chance to live the fulfilling, happy, and safe lives that they deserve.