

Senate Finance Committee

SB0742- Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act)

Support

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Dear Senator Beidle, Senator Hayes and committee members:

I am requesting that you vote in favor of **SB0742** so that Maryland would be following the rules of the Federal government and provide for the needs of Medicaid eligible recipients.

Since January 2024, people in Maryland have been losing Medicaid even during the reapplication process. Some are told that they need to wait for a slot to open up before they can have services again. Providers are not paid and the Medicaid reinstatement process can be delayed. While their loved ones are disenrolled, families may need to provide additional caregiving services and may have to fund required medications. My son who receives DDA services and is a Type 1 diabetic was disenrolled from services for a single week. The agency he receives services from was not reimbursed for that week. We were fortunate to not need to purchase any medications that week which could cost more than a thousand dollars. Through advocacy we were able to get his Medicaid quickly restored but many other people are not so blessed and go weeks and even months without their Medicaid being restored leaving them in limbo.

Through this bill, Maryland would be following the federal rules which require the state to follow timelines and provide help to Marylanders working on getting their Medicaid back. This bill would prevent Maryland from ending a person's Medicaid enrollment when they do not do their part in keeping the person enrolled and states that Maryland must reinstate a person's eligibility if they are disenrolled for certain reasons.

Thank you for your attention to this bill and voting in favor of the bill.

Best,

Dorothy Plantz

