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**Langton Green, Inc. Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill B742 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration – Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act)**

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill B742, the Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act. This legislation is critically important to ensure that individuals with disabilities in Maryland are not improperly terminated from Medicaid or Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) waiver services and that, when errors occur, eligibility is immediately reinstated.

For Marylanders with disabilities, Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Medicaid are not optional benefits, they are lifelines. These services provide access to various services such as personal supports, medical care, employment assistance, community engagement, behavioral health services, and residential supports that make independent living possible. When eligibility is wrongly terminated, even briefly, the consequences are immediate and devastating.

Improper disenrollment disrupts medical treatment, interrupts critical daily support and various other matters. Community providers, who operate on tight margins, face stringent compliance requirements, workforce disruptions and financial instability when service authorizations are suddenly halted. These cascading impacts affect not only individuals and families, but the broader system of care.

Langton Green, Inc. since December 2024 has experienced delayed funding in over \$2 million dollars. As a result of the delayed funding, we had to access our reserves to fund payroll and administrative costs to ensure services provided to our clients were not delayed nor impacted. As of today, we still have clients in our care in which we have not yet been paid, at no fault to our Organization. The real heroes are the dedicated organizations that are drawing on their reserves to ensure vital services continue uninterrupted for individuals with disabilities. Their commitment and willingness to step up in challenging times safeguard stability, dignity, and essential support for those who depend on them most.

Senate Bill B742 addresses these harms by strengthening protections against improper termination and establishing mechanisms to ensure swift reinstatement when individuals are wrongly disenrolled. Continuity of care is essential for people with developmental and other disabilities. Service interruptions are not minor administrative burdens; they can permanently destabilize a person's health, independence, and progress to live the best possible life they can. We know this is the goal for the State of Maryland and supporting Organizations throughout the state.

Maryland has long been a leader in advancing community-based supports in alignment with federal disability rights principles and the values embodied in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ensuring accurate eligibility determinations and rapid correction of errors is consistent with those commitments. It promotes stability, protects vulnerable residents, and reinforces the integrity of our public systems.

Preventing improper terminations of Medicaid and waiver services is not only a moral imperative, but also a sound fiscal strategy for the State of Maryland. Many of the eligibility errors that lead to wrongful disenrollment stem from avoidable administrative breakdowns. They lead to gaps in communication, documentation processing delays, or system inefficiencies that can and should be addressed through clearer standards, oversight, and accountability as proposed in B742.

By reducing these preventable errors, the State can avoid costly appeals, emergency service utilization, service interruptions, and the administrative burden of reinstating coverage after harm has already occurred. Proactive safeguards will create efficiencies within our eligibility systems, reduce unnecessary bureaucratic churn, and ultimately generate meaningful budget savings while ensuring stability and continuity of care for Marylanders with disabilities.

Most importantly, this bill affirms a simple but powerful principle: people with disabilities deserve reliability in the systems they depend on to survive and thrive. Administrative errors should never result in life altering harm.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Senate to give Senate Bill B742 a favorable report. Protecting continuity of Medicaid and waiver services protects Maryland families, strengthens community providers, and upholds the rights and dignity of people with disabilities across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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Chief Executive Officer



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