



Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Laura Howell and I am the CEO of the Maryland Association of Community Services, the statewide association representing over 125 community providers that support thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities in their homes, workplaces, and communities across our state.

MACS strongly supports HB 1445 and SB 742, the Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act.

Maryland is required to follow federal rules governing Medicaid eligibility determinations, renewals, and continuous enrollment. When those rules are not followed and people with disabilities lose Medicaid and waiver eligibility, the consequences are immediate and serious. People are at risk of losing residential supports, day services, employment services, behavioral supports, and access to healthcare. Families are forced to step in with little notice. Providers are left delivering services without payment to prevent crisis.

This is not isolated. It is systemic.

Since January 2024, people with developmental disabilities have been losing Medicaid coverage and DDA waiver eligibility during redeterminations. Even when they are later found eligible, some are told they must wait for a waiver slot to reopen before services can resume. During that period, services are interrupted, or providers continue supports at significant financial risk.

MACS surveyed providers as a sampling from across the state to understand the scope of the problem. The results reflect significant disruption.

Across 59 providers:

- 982 people experienced erroneous waiver disenrollment from January 2024 through January 2026
- 44% were out of the DDA waiver for more than six months
- 39% are still not reinstated in the DDA waiver
- \$35.5 million is currently owed to providers for care that has been uncompensated to date for services provided while the person was disenrolled

These numbers represent only a portion of providers across Maryland. The statewide impact is undoubtedly far greater.

Beyond the dollars, providers report extensive administrative burdens. Staff spend hours assisting families with redetermination paperwork, coordinating with CCS agencies, resubmitting documentation, and attempting to obtain updates from staff in the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) within Maryland Medicaid. Providers and families report lack of response to emails and phone calls, leaving them uncertain whether documentation has even been received.

When Medicaid coverage ends, services cannot simply stop. Many of the people supported require medication management, behavioral supports, 24-hour residential supervision, or employment supports to remain stable and safe. Providers are forced to choose between financial solvency and the well-being of the people they serve.

Families are equally affected. When a loved one is disenrolled, families often must fill the gap. For aging parents, this can mean resuming full time caregiving responsibilities with little notice. For individuals living independently, it can mean loss of staff support that makes community living possible.

SB 742 require the State to follow federal timelines, help prevent improper terminations, and reinstate eligibility when disenrollment occurs for procedural reasons. The bill ensures that Maryland cannot end a person's Medicaid when the State has failed to do its part to maintain continuous enrollment.

This legislation does not expand eligibility. It requires compliance with existing federal requirements and protects people from losing essential services because of administrative breakdowns.

Stability is foundational for people with developmental disabilities. Interruptions in services can lead to regression, crisis, hospitalization, or risk of institutional placement. Administrative errors should not carry life altering consequences.

For these reasons, MACS respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 742.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Marylanders with developmental disabilities.

Best regards,

Laura Howell