
SB0742/HB1445: Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act

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I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) recent practice of disenrolling individuals from waiver programs due to minor clerical errors. These actions, often taken without adequate notice and followed by lengthy appeals processes, appear to be a strategy to address budget shortfalls at the expense of our most vulnerable citizens.

This issue directly impacts my 67-year-old brother, James, who has lived in a group home with the Arc of Montgomery County for 47 years. James was born with Cerebral Palsy and later developed Cervical Dystonia, requiring expensive Botox injections four times a year. He cannot afford this essential treatment without his benefits, nor can he live independently. Furthermore, the Arc has already been forced to cut staff and salaries due to these budget reductions.

This is the second consecutive year the State has implemented such cuts. I urge you to take action to protect the health, safety, and dignity of my brother and others like him who rely on these entitled benefits and pass this Bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Bern