



**BILL: SB 583**

**POSITION: FWA – Favorable with Amendments**

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE: February 20, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Department of Disabilities  
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for **SB 583, Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services Manual - Public Comment.**

MDOD is in support of the bill contingent on the amendment that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has submitted, which would require MDH to adopt regulations for the Community Pathways Waiver program. DDA's regulations should be updated to reflect the changes that have taken place in the waiver over the last 13 years.

Like MDH, MDOD believes these amendments will accomplish the intent of the legislation by providing significant stakeholder and advocate input in the Department's procedures through the State's existing regulatory process, governed by the Administrative Procedures Act in State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 1.

MDOD believes that the proposed regulatory process would be a more meaningful opportunity for stakeholder and advocate input.

MDOD supports the amendment as follows:

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 2 through 12, inclusive, and substitute:

**“THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER, INCLUDING REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE DELIVERY OF SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES.”**

*Rationale:* MDOD suggests adopting the amendment submitted by the Maryland Department of Health, included here for reference. This amendment would ensure that MDH undertakes a process to update and modernize DDA's regulations, which would include opportunities for meaningful public and stakeholder input through the State's existing regulatory process, governed by the Administrative Procedures Act in State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 1.

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For these reasons, MDOD respectfully supports SB 583 as amended.

Sincerely,

*Carol A. Beatty*

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Secretary, Department of Disabilities