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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker  
SB 742 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities  
Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations  
(Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)

March 3rd, 2026

1:00pm

Position: Favorable With Amendment

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 742 - Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act**. Senate Bill 742 mirrors House Bill 1445 and works to safeguard the benefits and services that Marylanders with disabilities depend on. I am proud to join Senator Guzzone in supporting this legislation.

The landmark 1999 decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C. (Olmstead)* affirmed that unjustified segregation of individuals with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The *Olmstead* decision established that people with disabilities have the right to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and that states must provide community-based services when such services are appropriate, desired by the individual, and can be reasonably accommodated.

Maryland has a longstanding commitment towards promoting inclusion within our state. We are required to follow federal rules related to Medicaid applications, and decisions about the eligibility and renewals of benefits. Currently, there are still obstacles for Marylanders with disabilities as administrative inefficiencies and delays in Medicaid eligibility (re)determinations can cause individuals to lose their access to critical services. Those who lose their Medicaid are more likely to be institutionalized. Thus, the potential loss of critical services and benefits puts the overall health and well-being of Marylanders at risk.

**Senate Bill 742** seeks to protect the services of Marylanders with disabilities by providing Medicaid support. This bill requires the State to follow timelines and provide assistance to stop Medicaid and waiver services from concluding. If an individual loses their coverage, under this bill, the State must help them to get it back. In addition, if an individual receives notice that they have lost their eligibility, they would now have 90 days to submit an appeal.

Additionally, when Maryland does not do its part in keeping an individual's Medicaid continuously enrolled, they can not end their Medicaid benefits. In situations where a person disenrolled for particular reasons, the State of Maryland must reinstate their eligibility. This ensures individuals can get their services and support back.

By passing **Senate Bill 742**, Maryland not only adheres to the *Olmstead* decision, but takes a much needed step towards protecting the benefits and services of individuals with disabilities. I respectfully request a favorable with amendment report on **Senate Bill 742**. Thank you for your consideration.