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Testimony for HB 1445
Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act
Before the House Health Committee
March 10, 2026
Position: **FAV**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Dalto and I am President of a small human service consulting business in Maryland.

My customers include a number of Marylanders with disabilities who have had their eligibility for services from the DDA through the Community Pathways Waiver incorrectly terminated. The problem has been so severe and widespread that I provided several trainings on how to survive Community Pathways Waiver redeterminations for service providers and families. You will hear many compelling stories about the problem from others. But I would like to inform you of a single issue that appears to be exacerbating the problem that should be easily remedied.

The Eligibility Determination Division's (EDD's) Waiver Unit is responsible for conducting annual eligibility redeterminations for only a small minority of people enrolled in the Community Pathways Waiver: those who receive Medicaid through the Special Income Level group. This Medicaid group – which has an income limit of \$2,982 per month and an asset limit of \$2,500 – is reserved for individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid through any of a handful of other groups that are compatible with the Waiver, including people who receive SSI, Disabled Adult Children (DACs) and the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program. People who receive Medicaid through these other groups are supposed to receive their redeterminations from other entities, and not from the Waiver Unit.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that many people who receive Medicaid through other groups are receiving redeterminations from the Waiver Unit, although they should not be. In other words, the Waiver Unit – which by all accounts is overwhelmed and understaffed – is conducting many redeterminations for people who should not be receiving their redeterminations from the Waiver Unit. This practice is adding to the Waiver Unit's burden completely unnecessarily. The Maryland Department of Health is aware of this problem, but to my knowledge, has not yet taken action to fix it.

Taking on work that it shouldn't is only one of the problems that beset the Waiver Unit, resulting in many individuals having been incorrectly terminated from Waiver services. SB 742 is a vital first step to put a halt to this disastrous state of affairs.

I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB 742. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Dalto, President
High Note Consulting, LLC