

March 10, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

This legislation takes a critical step toward improving the delivery of essential services by requiring the MDH to convene a Workgroup on Home- and Community-Based Services. For individuals living with mental health conditions and those requiring long-term support, home- and community-based services are an essential service that allows individuals independence and dignity.

The workgroup is tasked with reviewing the number of individuals currently on a waitlist and identifying barriers to accessing services. Additionally, the bill requires the workgroup to make recommendations to improve the current process for applying for services and the average time it takes for an individual to receive services after an application is submitted. Reducing administrative delays is essential for those in mental health crises or transitioning from institutional settings. Finally, by evaluating reimbursement rates for providers and rates of turnover for staff who process applications, the workgroup will address the workforce challenges that currently limit the availability of care.

HB1423 will provide insight to identify and fix systemic issues, which is what is needed to help strengthen our Home and Community Based Services System.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Stephanie Slowly-Little
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

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