



March 6, 2026

Dear Chair Bagnall and members of the Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Providence of Maryland in strong support of HB 1445, legislation that will protect critical services for Marylanders with disabilities.

Providence of Maryland supports nearly 300 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Anne Arundel and Charles Counties, helping them live full and meaningful lives in their communities. The services funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are essential to ensuring people have access to employment, community engagement, residential supports, and the stability they need to continue live their best lives.

As you may also know, since January 2024, people have been losing their Medicaid and even when they reapply, some are being told they need to wait for a slot to open up before their DDA services can resume. The impact on people's lives can't be ignored. Interruptions in services mean disruptions to jobs, housing stability, daily routines, and the critical supports people rely on each day.

This has directly impacted 34 people who receive services at Providence. Rather than deny people the services that have been helping them live their best lives, Providence has continued to provide services without reimbursement from the state. To date this has resulted in a financial impact of just over \$85,000 to our organization.

Marylanders with disabilities deserve the same real connections, real opportunities, and real experiences that all of us need to live our best lives. Continued access to DDA services makes this possible. HB 1445 will ensure the stability, opportunity, and independence that DDA services make possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Adams-Gilchrist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Karen Adams-Gilchrist

President and CEO

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Real Connections. Real Opportunities. Real Experiences.