



Written Testimony in Support of HB1445

Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration – Home and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations

My name is Dwon C. Williamson, and I serve as Chief Operating Officer of Bay Community Support Services (Bay-CSS), a Maryland nonprofit provider supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Southern Maryland and Anne Arundel County.

Bay-CSS strongly supports HB1445 because continuity of Medicaid and Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) waiver eligibility is essential to the stability, safety, and well-being of the people we support and their families.

Over the past year, Maryland providers and families have experienced significant disruption due to procedural Medicaid and waiver terminations during the federal unwinding period. Individuals with lifelong disabilities have lost services not because they were no longer eligible, but because of administrative barriers such as missed notices, documentation delays, or system processing gaps. When eligibility is improperly terminated, individuals immediately lose access to critical supports including residential services, personal supports, employment services, and community integration.

These disruptions have serious human and systemic consequences. Individuals with disabilities experience anxiety, regression, and loss of routine and stability. Families face crisis-level caregiving burdens with little notice. Providers must either absorb the cost of unfunded care to prevent harm or suspend services until eligibility is restored. Neither outcome is sustainable, and both place vulnerable Marylanders at risk.

As a community provider, Bay-CSS has directly experienced service interruptions tied to eligibility terminations and reinstatements. Even short coverage gaps create cascading effects: staffing instability, disrupted care plans, and financial strain on nonprofit providers operating on thin margins. When services are reinstated, rebuilding stability for the individual often takes weeks or months.

HB1445 establishes clear safeguards to ensure Maryland follows federal Medicaid requirements, prevents inappropriate terminations, and promptly reinstates eligibility when individuals are wrongly disenrolled. These protections are essential to maintaining continuity of home- and community-based services and preventing avoidable crises for people with disabilities and their families.

Maryland has long prioritized community living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. HB1445 reinforces that commitment by protecting access to the services that make community life possible.

For these reasons, Bay Community Support Services respectfully urges a favorable report on HB1445.

Sincerely,

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A copy of the current financial statement and form 990 of Bay Community Support Services are available upon request without charge from: 908 Commerce Road, Annapolis MD 21401 or (410) 224-4205. Documents and information are available from the Secretary of State's office for the cost of copies and postage.