

HB1423_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/10/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#1423 POSITION: FAVORABLE

Maryland Department of Health - Workgroup on Home- and Community-Based Services

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1423, **Maryland Department of Health - Workgroup on Home- and Community-Based Services**

This bill will establish a workgroup and define who will be on that workgroup under whose appointment authority.

The Workgroup shall review and evaluate the following programs:

- Community First Choice Program
- Community Personal Assistance Services Program
- Home and Community-Based Options Waiver
- Increased Community Services Program
- Medical Day Care Services Waiver

In reviewing and evaluating the programs listed ..., the Workgroup shall review and as appropriate make recommendations to improve:

- eligibility requirements
- the current process for applying for and receiving services under the programs
- the average time it takes for an individual to receive services after an application is submitted
- barriers to accessing services
- the number of individuals currently on a wait list to receive services
- rates of turnover for staff reviewing and processing applications
- geographic diversity of program providers and recipients
- reimbursement rates for providers
- any other issues identified by the Workgroup

This bill will require the Maryland Department of Health to convene a Workgroup on Home- and Community-Based Services; and requiring the Department to submit a report of the Workgroup's findings and recommendations by October 1, 2027.

The report can then guide the General Assembly and the Governor in drafting legislation to implement recommendations from that report's findings.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1423.