



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Inclusion • Self-Advocacy • Individualization

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House Health Committee  
Heather Bagnall, Chair  
March 6, 2026

Chair Bagnall and esteemed members of the Health Committee:

My name is Laura Lear and I am the CEO of Community Support Services, Inc. (CSS), a nonprofit community provider in Montgomery County. CSS supports 200 children and adults with significant developmental disabilities in services funded by DDA.

CSS strongly supports HB 1445 and SB 742, the Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act.

People with developmental disabilities rely on Medicaid Waiver services to remain safe, healthy, and engaged in their communities. These services are not optional, they are essential supports that allow people to maintain stability, independence, and quality of life.

Since January 2024, people with developmental disabilities have been losing Medicaid coverage and DDA waiver eligibility during redeterminations. Twenty-five people receiving Waiver services through CSS have been erroneously disenrolled during this time. CSS has continued to provide uncompensated support for these services. To date, all but five people have been reinstated.

We have chosen to continue supporting people, rather than abruptly terminate services. As a result, CSS is currently owed more than \$150,000 in uncompensated care, and this total keeps growing. Providers are put in an impossible position; either discontinue critical supports for vulnerable people or continue services without the guarantee of reimbursement.

When Medical Assistance coverage is interrupted, people also lose access to critical healthcare. During periods of disenrollment, people may be unable to access essential medical care, therapies, and prescription medications that they rely on to manage chronic conditions and maintain their health. Even short interruptions in coverage can result in missed treatments, delayed care, and serious health risks for people with developmental disabilities.

These disenrollments are frequently the result of redetermination process failures rather than participant inaction. We have observed significant discrepancies between information in the LTSS Maryland and the redetermination notices issued by the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD). In many cases, no redetermination date appears in the LTSS system, leaving providers and service coordinators without the information necessary to assist people in completing the process on time.

Additionally, redetermination notices are often sent to representative payees very close to the submission deadline, leaving no time to gather required documentation and submit the redetermination. Even when the redetermination is submitted before the due date, if it is submitted close to the deadline, the person may still be disenrolled due to processing delays.

Compounding this issue, once Medical Assistance eligibility is reinstated, people frequently remain disenrolled from their waiver services and are told they must reapply for the waiver entirely, despite the fact that the original disenrollment occurred due to administrative error. This creates unnecessary disruption, delays access to critical supports, and places additional strain on people receiving services, their families, and community providers.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation to ensure continuity of services and to protect vulnerable Marylanders from losing essential supports due to administrative errors beyond their control.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to protecting people with developmental disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lear  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Support Services, Inc.