



HB1434 - Maryland Department of Health - Caregiver Resource Webpage – Establishment

Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 10, 2026
Committee: Health

The Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides family peer support services at no cost to families who have a child or other loved one with a mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorder. As experienced caregivers, we provide support, guidance, and hope to people who love or care for someone with a behavioral health challenge and advocate to improve the systems they rely on.

Navigating complex systems of care is one of the core services our family peer support specialists provide to parents and caregivers across Maryland. These systems operate in siloes, creating pathways that are impossible to untangle even for those with advanced knowledge and experience. While other resource platforms exist, they remain disjointed or incomplete and families we support aren't aware of them, find them inadequate to their needs, or aren't sure what they're looking for, making the platform difficult to navigate. A webpage housed within the Department of Health that is appropriately marketed would be a logical and intuitive place for parents and caregivers to begin their search for help and resources.

One parent MCF who supports this proposed bill wrote, "[I]t has been like a horrible scavenger hunt trying to find resources for my developmentally/intellectually disabled/mentally ill child." Another shared, "As caretakers, we have our plates full already. Any sources of information to help is greatly needed and appreciated."

MCF urges the passing of HB1434.

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