

Maryland Department of Health Rare Disease Advisory Council

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The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 10, 2026

Re:HB1593
Favorable

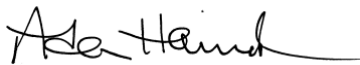
Dear Chair Bagnall and members of the Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) in support of HB1593 which requires the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual and allows for public comment. The RDAC is a legislated Governor's Advisory Council tasked with improving access to care and outcomes for people in Maryland living with Rare Disease.

Hearing from the public and especially those who use these services about the implications of proposed changes is essential to open government and meeting the needs of people living in Maryland. Many individuals living with rare diseases are medically complex and also have developmental disabilities. Hearing from their caretakers is important to prevent any unintended harmful consequences of proposed changes.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any question about this bill or about rare disease.

Sincerely,



Ada Hamosh, MD, MPH,
Chair

Council Coordinator

Lauren Whiteman, MPH,