



DATE: March 10, 2026 COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
BILL NO: House Bill 1445
BILL TITLE: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (MD Protecting People With Disabilities Act)
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 1445 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1445 establishes requirements related to eligibility determinations and redeterminations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid).

Background:

Kennedy Krieger provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

Kennedy Krieger's Neurodiversity at Work is a catalyst for collaboration, innovative ideas and actionable strategies that drive workplace success. Together, we're shaping more inclusive, forward-thinking workplaces - where untapped potential becomes a powerful driver of success. Currently the program includes several specialty initiatives CORE Foundations a Developmental Disabilities Administration Licensed Agency, HR pathways hiring program, training and education services, legislative efforts, research, transition consultation services, and planning for an annual national conference and on-going events.

Kennedy Krieger Institute believes that individuals with disabilities have the skills, talents, and drive to contribute significantly to the workforce and to the broader community. A neurodiverse workforce benefits all.

Rationale:

The Neurodiversity at Work department at Kennedy Krieger provides community-based services across five Maryland counties and supports 56 clients who rely on Medicaid and home and community-based services. Through this program we have witnessed the potential negative consequences to individuals who have lost access to services due to improper procedural terminations.

The protections in this bill, requiring the State to follow federal timelines, preventing improper disenrollment, and reserving waiver slots for those who lose coverage, are essential to preventing disruptive gaps in support for the individuals we serve.

By enhancing accountability, expanding access to information, and eliminating administrative obstacles that interrupt essential services, this policy supports continuity of care and helps ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the supports they are entitled to so they can lead full and meaningful lives.

Kennedy Krieger requests a favorable report on House Bill 1445.