



March 6, 2026

Delegate Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
Members of the House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Heather Bagnall, and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing to convey my endorsement of **HB1445 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration – Home and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determination (Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act)**. It is essential that the Medicaid eligibility system operates in accordance with the procedures detailed in this legislation to safeguard both the well-being of service recipients and the ongoing viability of community service organizations delivering these supports.

As Chief Executive Officer of Ardmore Enterprises, a community provider supporting individuals with disabilities, I wish to emphasize the importance of this bill in ensuring the well-being of people with disabilities through appropriate funding and service provision.

Since January 2024, seventeen individuals who rely on Ardmore Enterprises for home and community-based waived services (HCBS) have lost their Medicaid and waiver eligibility due to procedural errors at the Department of Health, Eligibility and Determination Division. Of the 138 people we serve, Ardmore currently provides services to eleven individuals for whom reimbursement has not been received for at least six months. Eight of these eleven disenrolled clients receive services from Ardmore twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and do not have alternative living or service options available. In multiple cases, funding has not been received for over two years despite following all required steps and being advised that coverage had been reinstated, only to discover subsequent errors necessitating further review of the application.

The current system is failing to fulfill its intended purpose by accurately determining eligibility, which is essential for access to critical community services. Ardmore now employs dedicated staff solely to manage waiver applications, determinations, and appeals—an unfunded service that the organization must absorb. Presently, Ardmore is owed approximately \$2.4 million in Medicaid funding for services rendered, representing over 10% of our FY26 organizational

budget. It is also common for providers to remain unpaid during coverage gaps, even if eligibility is later reinstated, unless extended advocacy efforts are pursued.

This practice is unsustainable, and numerous organizations are unable to manage ongoing budget shortfalls. Additionally, families experience considerable stress during the appeals process. Many of these families are elderly and require substantial support, collaborating with Ardmore to complete necessary steps. Everyone affected has a unique impact story. The sequence of systemic failures can be difficult to comprehend without firsthand experience. On behalf of the individuals with disabilities whom Ardmore supports, it is imperative that state administrative process function as required for individuals to maintain their access to essential services.

I support the proposed bill, that would:

- Require the State to follow timelines and provide assistance to prevent unnecessary termination of Medicaid and waiver services.
- Prevent termination when the loss of coverage is due to the State not meeting its own procedural obligations.
- Require reinstatement in cases of improper disenrollment.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at lsedlezky@ardmoreenterprises.org.

Respectfully,



Lori Sedlezky
Chief Executive Officer
Ardmore Enterprises