

HB1445_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/10/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#1445- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1445, **Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)**

The Kennedy Krieger Institute explains what the *Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)* does. ¹

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides services and supports for children and adults of all ages with developmental disabilities. A developmental disability is a severe chronic disability other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness that arises before age 22 and makes it impossible to live independently without support

But the current budget crisis in Maryland has affected the services being provided. Maryland Matters declared *Left in the Dust: Maryland's DDA Cuts Are Devastating Disabled Children and Families* ²

This bill attempts to repair and halt the harms being done to our disabled persons in Maryland. It adds guardrails to decision making on individuals who are receiving services from the program.

This bill will accomplish that goal by repealing the 90-day time limit within which an individual receiving services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration must appeal a loss of eligibility for services; establishing requirements related to eligibility determinations and redeterminations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; prohibiting the Department from procedurally disenrolling individuals from the Program or home- and community-based services solely on a certain basis except under certain circumstances; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1445.

¹ <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/sites/default/files/library/documents/community/maryland-center-for-developmental-disabilities-mcdd/DDA%20-%20Overview.PDF>

² [https://cmsa.org/left-in-the-dust-marylands-dda-cuts-are-devastating-disabled-children-and-families/#:~:text=In%20January%202025%2C%20Maryland's%20disability,Disability%20Rights%20Maryland%2C%202024\).](https://cmsa.org/left-in-the-dust-marylands-dda-cuts-are-devastating-disabled-children-and-families/#:~:text=In%20January%202025%2C%20Maryland's%20disability,Disability%20Rights%20Maryland%2C%202024).)