



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Health Committee

HB 1445: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and DDA – Home and Community Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People with Disabilities Act)

March 10, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. As such, we support efforts to increase opportunities for Marylanders with and without disabilities to live, learn, work, and play together. **That means in their own communities.** HB 1445 does just that.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Puts federal requirements into state law. Specifically, it:
 - Requires the State to follow timelines and provide help to prevent Medicaid and waiver services from ending, and if Medicaid coverage has ended, help to get Medicaid back.\
 - Says Maryland can't end a person's Medicaid when it does not do its part to keep the person continuously enrolled.
 - Says Maryland must reinstate a person's eligibility if they were dis-enrolled for certain reasons.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Maryland is required to follow federal rules related to Medicaid applications, and decisions about eligibility and renewals of benefits.** Since January 2024, people have been losing their Medicaid and even when they reapply, some are being told they need to wait for a slot to open up before they can have their services again.
 - Providers of Developmental Disabilities supports report they are unable to be paid, for services and supports they have provided to people, when the person loses Medicaid coverage. Even if a person's Medicaid is reinstated, and billing can be backdated, there can be long delays.
 - Families take on additional caregiving responsibilities when their loved one is dis-enrolled from Medicaid and/or their Medicaid Waiver and the person is unable to get services elsewhere.
 - **When people with disabilities lose their Medicaid and waiver eligibility, they are at increased risk of institutionalization and loss of services.** Maryland has closed nearly all of our large institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and invested in community supports. This bill keeps us on the right path for people.

HB 1445 is a common-sense measure that keeps Marylanders with disabilities in their communities and out of institutions. By aligning state law with federal requirements, we can prevent the loss of critical services, and ensure that every Marylander has the opportunity to live the life they choose.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1300 • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410.767.3670 • md-council.org

Dee Sapp, *Chairperson* • Rachel London, Esq., *Executive Director*