

House Bill 1015
Developmental Disabilities Administration – Services – Eligibility for Recently
Relocated Individuals (Ralph’s Act)
In Support of
Health Committee
Hearing: February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Delegate Bagnall, Chair, Delegate Cullison, Vice-Chair, and distinguished committee members,

On a very personal and individual level, I would like to request your support for HB 1015. My daughter, Sarah, suffered a fall 14 months ago that resulted in a traumatic brain injury. After 70 days in Bellevue Hospital in New York City, she returned to her home in Brooklyn, New York. She has recovered much of her cognitive and physical abilities, but her right arm and leg (dominant side) do not yet work well enough to support her. She needs help for most functions. Sarah’s partner has been her primary caregiver during this time. This has become untenable. He works 60+ hours a week. Sarah must be home alone during this time. Health aides are sometimes available, but they are sporadic and unreliable. This has made it very difficult to get to physical therapy as well as keep appointments with her Neurologist and primary care doctor.

Together, we decided to bring Sarah to Maryland to stay with me in my home. I am retired and can get her to these necessary appointments. Sarah is receiving SSDI and her primary insurance is Medicaid New York. This is not transferrable to Medicaid Maryland. Since Sarah is on SSDI she would be eligible for Medicaid Maryland, but only after six months to establish Maryland residency. Right now, we are using private pay to get Physical Therapy. The doctor’s appointments will have to wait.

It is not clear to me whether or not HB 1015 would help Sarah, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. Please support HB 1015.

Sincerely,
Virginia G. Crespo
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