



House Health Committee

March 10, 2026

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1445.

House Bill 1445 strengthens Maryland’s commitment to children and individuals with disabilities by ensuring that home- and community-based services are delivered in a timely, consistent, and equitable manner. The bill does not create new clinical or eligibility standards, it codifies existing expectations for administration of home- and community-based services programs so that eligible individuals can receive the supports they need to live safely in their homes and communities.

Pediatricians care for many children with complex medical conditions, disabilities, and behavioral health needs who rely on home- and community-based services waivers. These services are essential for maintaining family stability and supporting optimal health and developmental outcomes. Delays in eligibility determinations or interruptions in services can result in avoidable hospitalizations, increased caregiver stress, and most importantly, setbacks in therapy and educational progress.

House Bill 1445 would help address these challenges by requiring more timely eligibility decisions and by prohibiting procedural disenrollment from services due to missing documentation, administrative processing delays, or technical issues that are unrelated to a family’s true eligibility. The bill also allows individuals who are disenrolled for procedural reasons to be reenrolled without returning to the end of an already lengthy waiting list. These improvements would promote continuity of care and reduce disruptions for medically vulnerable children and their families.

For these reasons, MDAAP requests a favorable report on House Bill 1445.

For more information call:

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