



Testimony in Support
HB 1403 Maryland Department of Health
Waiver Programs-Waitlist
Reduction (End the Wait Act)
Health and Government Operations
March 15, 2022
By Ken Capone

Background: People On the Go Maryland builds community through diversity and inclusion. We respect the individuality of our members and are committed to making inclusion a priority so that everyone feels comfortable, valued, and heard. People On the Go remains distinct by maintaining a cross-disability strategy that focuses on effecting positive change in the lives of people with and without disabilities.

We are here to testify in support for HB 1403 Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act)

I would like to stress to you how important it is to get the waiting lists fully funded because I was one of those people on the waiting list. I was on the waiting list for about 15 years with my elderly mother caring for me. To make a long story short, when I started receiving services my life changed dramatically. Having all of the waivers waiting lists reduced by 50% would give many people with disabilities the support and services they need to live a life of their choosing. Knowing the department is working on a plan to reduce the waiting list by 50% gives people who have been waiting hope of receiving services in a reasonable time.

I know people who are waiting for services and those services could help them tremendously but without any plan to reduce the waiting list they are just waiting and hoping for services. I have been in this field a long time advocating for people with disabilities and it hurts me knowing that there are people who's lives could be so much more meaningful if they had needed services. The time is now.

Thank you