



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee:	Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 80
Title:	Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications
Hearing Date:	February 9, 2022
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 80 – Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications*. This bill seeks to increase the number of people who can receive community-based waivers and improve the waitlist process.

Occupational therapy practitioners work with many people who are in long-term care facilities who want to return home. We also serve clients who are in the homes and want to remain there if they can get needed support services. House Bill 80 serves both of those groups by ensuring that there are enough waiver placements and that wait lists are managed efficiently.

Today, MOTA will be presenting testimony from one of our newest members, an occupational therapy graduate who will soon be licensed. Lauren Burns will be sharing the following experience from her field placement in graduate school:

“I am a recent graduate of Towson University's occupational therapy program and a soon-to-be occupational therapist. I'm here today to give my support of HB 80 as a member of the Maryland Occupational Therapy Association. Occupational therapy has deep roots in Maryland due to the work of many founders at Sheppard Pratt Institute and Johns Hopkins Hospital in the early 1900s. From occupational therapy's early days, compassionate care and empowerment of clients has been a forefront of the profession. As a student intern serving older adults in central Maryland, I saw how the wait-list process for home and community based services was a challenge for both clients and the professionals who

assisted them at the local and state level. For example, I heard of an individual who was mailed a letter to confirm their wait-list status. The individual had not been regularly checking their mail, and missed a deadline to renew their wait-list status. This caused great distress for the individual and their loved ones as they had to start the wait-list process over. HB will 80 allow state and local partners to collaborate to increase access to home and community-based supports to the Marylanders who need those services most. “

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.