

## What happened with HB 166/"Fight for \$15"?

The House of Delegates passed HB 166 – "Fight for \$15" with changes that:

- extend the phase-in of the higher minimum wage to \$15/hr by *January 1, 2025* (instead of July 2023).
- *Significantly decrease* the rate adjustments for developmental disability community services to 3% annually, a level that does not come close to keeping pace with the minimum wage increases.
- add 7 additional Medicaid provider groups to the bill to receive annual rate increases, all at a higher rate than DD services.
- took a one-size fits all approach to the provider rate increases, adding a 1% increase to the projected baseline rate increases for each set of providers. Because DD providers have traditionally had the lowest level of funding, the 1% increase resulted in DD providers getting the lowest increase in the bill.



## Why did the House do this?

- The House wanted to help all Medicaid providers, and chose to take a limited amount of funding and "spread it" across all provider groups.
- The State faces significant financial pressure over the next several years, and the rate increase for DD services adds considerable ongoing expense.

## Why is this dire?

- Under the current version of the bill, most developmental disability providers will be unable to keep their doors open long term.
- The 3% increase will not be enough to sustain DD community services as the minimum wage goes up.
- The 3% increase will not be enough to pay the direct support workforce even the minimum wage as the \$15/hr is phased in.
- DD providers will not be able to attract and sustain a qualified workforce.
- Many community providers will be forced to close their doors.
- Thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities will not have the services they need to live, learn work and play in the community.

## What are we asking Senators to do?

The DD community supports system will need the following rate increases to be amended into the bill in order to survive:

FY 21:	5.5%
FY 22:	5.5%
FY 23:	4.5%
FY 24:	4.25%
FY 25:	4%
FY 26:	3%

- These are the *minimum* rate increases, calculated based on the new phase-in schedule included in the amendments, that will permit DD providers to remain open and continue providing community supports to people with developmental disabilities.
- It is important to note that these rate increases are based *specifically* on the needs of the developmental disability community services rate system and were *carefully calculated* to keep direct support wages above the minimum wage. Not all provider groups in the bill need, nor have requested, the same rate increases.

**Elected leaders have a responsibility to support, *not harm*, citizens with developmental disabilities. URGE your Senators to take action to ensure that the Fight for \$15 bill is amended to include these increases for DD services!**