

I am writing to express my strong support not only for maintaining, but for increasing the current budget for respite care services in Maryland.

I am the parent of a child with a disability, and the 140 hours of respite care available to my family each year—while deeply appreciated—are limited. Even so, this support is invaluable. Respite care provides essential relief for families like mine and for caregivers who dedicate their lives to caring for their loved ones.

Caring for a family member with a disability is extremely demanding—physically, emotionally, and mentally. Without adequate respite care, many caregivers would not be able to continue providing the level of care their loved ones require. Increasing funding for these services would allow caregivers the necessary time to rest, recover, and maintain their own well-being, which ultimately benefits the individuals receiving care.

I personally benefit greatly from this program and am profoundly grateful for the support provided by the county. However, expanding and increasing funding for respite care would significantly strengthen families, prevent caregiver burnout, and ensure long-term stability for households caring for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to supporting families and individuals with disabilities in our community.