

House Appropriations Committee  
HHR Sub-Committee  
15 June, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments today, I represent the Virginia Network of Private Providers – our member organizations support more than 30,000 individuals with more than 14,500 staff across the Commonwealth. The private sector provides more than 80% of the residential services and nearly 80% of the Day Support programs.

We echo Jennifer Faison's support for the Waiver Redesign and while there are still questions to be answered, we feel that the efforts are moving in the right direction.

We want to thank the members of the committee for their recognition, during the 2015 Session, that the resources were lacking to meet the goals of DOJ and accomplish what will be the benefits of the redesigned Waivers. As you affirmed in the Budget Language which granted a small, but greatly appreciated, increase in some rates:

***“The funding in this amendment provides an investment in the new rates to move the Commonwealth forward to a community-based system for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.”***

You have heard a good description of the proposal developed by Burns and Associates; we strongly support the structure of the proposal and feel that it will give a solid foundation for future growth.

We share the concerns expressed for how the “waiting list/lists” will be integrated and managed. We have reviewed some options ourselves, and hope that discussion by DBHDS and DMAS will occur with the stakeholders soon.

As you control the costs by funding slots in each of the three Waivers, it will be critical to have a mechanism to allow individuals currently on one of the Waivers to opt to move to a less expensive Waiver by getting a “slot” or, if needs require, to a more expensive Waiver slot. The resulting, now vacant, slots could then be available to support individuals from the Waiting List.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.