

Testimony on appointment of Leslie Kornreich to Commission on Disability Issues
January 17, 2017

I am very thankful to have received this nomination as it is a natural progression from advocating for special education students to advancing the needs of adults with disabilities in Howard County.

I never planned on it, but was thrust into a 20-year career (yes, it really takes as much time as a full-time job) advocating for my son's special education needs in the Howard County Public School System from when he was 18 months old. What began as a personal crusade turned outward when I realized how many parents were fighting the same fight as me, and 3 campaigns for Board of Education later I hope I have shed some light on the need for changes in how we approach special education.

As my son turns 21 next month and prepares to exit the public school system, my attention is naturally turned toward resources for adults with disabilities. I look forward to learning from the seasoned members of the commission about existing resources for Howard County citizens with disabilities and advocating for improvements. Just as it is important to have resources for our citizens to age in place in Howard County, so is it critical that we have the necessary resources for students transitioning to adulthood and for citizens of all ages living with disabilities.