

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

INDEPENDENT LIVING DAY MAY 5, 2026

- WHEREAS,** *The State of Maryland's vision for Independent Living is for Marylanders with disabilities to have information, choices, and control over the services and supports in their lives so they can participate fully in all aspects of society; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council promotes the Independent Living philosophy, which includes consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Statewide Independent Living Council develops the State Plan for Independent Living and supports the Centers for Independent Living in guiding the state's network of independent living programs and services to meet the needs of people with disabilities in the state; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Centers for Independent Living are community-based, cross-disability, non-profit organizations designed and operated by people with disabilities, modeling the cornerstone of the Independent Living philosophy of consumer control, where people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The State of Maryland recognizes the importance of Independent Living and is committed to leaving no one behind by promoting equality of opportunity, access, and choice for Marylanders with disabilities.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 5, 2026 as INDEPENDENT LIVING DAY in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 5th day of May
Two Thousand and twenty-six

Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller

Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee

Secretary of State