



George P. Failla, Jr., Esq. (Biography)
Acting Secretary for the Maryland Department of Disabilities

As Acting Secretary, Mr. Failla is the primary liaison to the Office of the Governor, Maryland General Assembly, and Executive Agencies of the State for matters of disability policy. He directs the development, implementation and communication of MDOD's policy initiatives across State Government through the State Disabilities Plan. Mr. Failla coordinates the Department's legislative agenda before the Maryland General Assembly. Policy domains include: Employment, Community Living, Transportation, Health and Behavioral Health, Housing, Education, and Children, Youth, and Families. He also supervises the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP) and the Access Maryland Capital Program for the Department. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Secretary for MDOD, Mr. Failla worked for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services in various capacities beginning in 1995.

Mr. Failla is a 1994 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. Failla is an attorney coach/instructor for the five-time National Champion Mock Trial Team at his alma mater, the University of Maryland College Park (Magna cum laude 1991) and has served as a guest lecturer in various settings addressing Legal issues in Special Education and Early Intervention Services. He was selected Outstanding Youth with a Disability by the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in 1987, Failla later went on to serve as chair of the Committee from 2001-2004. Along with Elliot Schoen, Deputy Counsel for the Maryland State Department of Education, Failla compiled the Maryland Special Education Law and Policy Manual (Lexis Law Publishing First Edition March 2001; Second Edition March 2008).

Failla is currently a member of the Governor's Executive Council, Children's Cabinet, Governor's Warrior to Worker Council, Chairs Interagency Disabilities Board, Advisory Committee, Technology Assistance Program, Co-Chair Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities. Failla is also a member of the Interagency Committee on Aging Services, Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code Advisory Council, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, Governor's Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, State Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation, State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life, Governing Board, Maryland Center for School Safety, Task Force to Study the Impact of Expanding Credit and Noncredit Courses for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Maryland Commission on Suicide Prevention, State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, State Interagency Coordinating Council [for Infants & Toddlers], Commission on Special Education Access and Equity.

Failla was also as a volunteer staff member for the Maryland Youth Leadership Forum from 2000-2009. When not at work, the Carroll County resident enjoys spending sleepless moments with his wife Jennifer and their three year- old son Jackson.