



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 4, 2020

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: HB 1171, *Public Health – Demonstration Program Developmental Disabilities*,
Support with Amendment

House Bill 1171 would establish the State Advisory Council on Self-Directed Services, which would be charged with educating the state Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and other stakeholders on the needs of adults with developmental disabilities and necessary systemic changes, as well as generally providing a forum for DDA to collaborate with individuals with developmental disabilities, advocates, families, community partners, and service providers on the subject of self-directed services.

Self-directed services, as defined in the bill, are services that an individual with developmental disabilities plans and purchases under his or her own direction and control when participating in certain DDA programs and services. Under the transformation plan DDA has undertaken over the last few years, individuals, including those in Montgomery County, have had difficulty accessing the self-directed services they are entitled to due to systems failures at DDA. The individuals participating in self-directed services, their families, and providers have communicated the issues experienced with self-directed services to DDA, but a formal and collaborative structure such as the Advisory Council provided for in House Bill 1171 is needed to ensure that these issues are resolved.

I support House Bill 1171 and request that the Committee adopt an amendment to require a representative from county government be included in the Advisory Committee, as county departments of health and human services are stakeholders in the administration of DDA funds and programs. I respectfully request the Committee issues a favorable report with this amendment.

cc: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee