

SB868 The Self-Direction Act
Susan Krebs
Favorable with amendments

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Sent: Wed, Feb 16, 2022 3:25 pm

Subject: House Bill 1020/Senate Bill 868, The Self Directed Services Act of 2022

Hello,

I am a citizen of Carroll County who votes and pays taxes. I live in Finksburg with my 23 year old daughter Eva who has Down syndrome. She recently began receiving Medicaid waiver services through self-direction, which means she is able to hire her own staff to support her, determine how her Medicaid budget is spent and tailor her daily activities to meet her needs and interests. Under the old traditional method, most young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities were forced to use agencies who provided one size fits all services. Self-directed services give Eva the choice on how to spend her budget for services she wants to live her best life.

We are asking for your support on passage for HB1020/SB868. This bill has three simple goals. It gives greater equity and access to appropriate services for self-directed participants, restores flexibility that was taken away by DDA and presumes competence of the individuals who the program is designed to serve. We have a team that supports Eva in her decisions on what she needs and how to spend her budget. We've helped her hire staff who take her shopping, out to exercise, visit with friends and volunteer for meals on wheels delivery. Eva has plans to get a job once we know it's safe from Covid. She's working hard to become more independent because I will not be around forever. It comforts me to know her support system will be set when I'm gone.

Please vote to recommend passage of this bill out of committee. Everything in this bill complies with CMS rules/regulations ensuring the federal match. Current DDA policies forfeit matching funds unnecessarily. As the mother of someone with a developmental disability, I ask for your uncompromising support of her right to choose the types and intensity of supports and services she receives, so that she has control over how she wants to live her own life, just like the rest of us.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about how self-directed works, or if you want more info. Thanks for your support,

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