

Re: The Self-Directed Services Act of 2022 (HB1020/SB868)

I have a 28yo granddaughter with severe autism. I am a significant part of her care. She has no physical disabilities, but her thought processes are 'different'. She has been in the SDS Program several years, and she is doing well in meeting the goals of the program.

We have accomplished this by using some of her 4 siblings as staff. They understand her communication signs and limited vocal language. We have had outside instructors in the past that have been sporadic in helping us thru many of life's changes. We feel the need to continue using family as staff at this point, so we're asking it be continued as part of the program.

During 2020-2021, we were without a Support Broker. It was very difficult to complete C's Participant Care Plan especially with the changes the Covid pandemic imposed. We never were able to use any of the \$2000.00 expense money provided in the waiver.

We now have an experienced Support Broker whose work is invaluable in keeping us using all parts of this complex program correctly. Having a Support Broker is a vital part of the program. Please help us keep this service.

C's current Service Coordinator is excellent in helping us put together & submit the annual renewal of C's Participant Care Plan. In fact, it is already approved for the 2022-2023 year. This has not been the case in the past and I strongly support funding for training for new service coordinators as they are newly employed to be our vital link with the DDA.

We use the 'team approach' with C. to complete her paperwork. She signs her own staff timesheets. Her competency to participate in the SDS program is verified in many ways. Staff has worked with her to achieve progress with the best outcomes. Please help us keep this 'team approach' for C. and others needing assistance in completing the requirements of the program.

I am asking for your support for SB868/HB1020, the Self Direction Act of 2022.

Thank you for listening and for all the work that you do,

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