

# I Support HB1020/SB868

## The Self-Direction Act



**Robert**

Our son Robert has been a self-advocate with self-directed services since 2008. The continuation of Self-Direction is very important and we strongly support the Self-Directed Services Act of 2022: We support goals as worked on with Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland (SDAN).

- 1) To achieve greater equity by ensuring that people in disadvantaged communities, those with language barriers and those who lack robust family supports can also access SD
- 2) To restore and maintain flexibility and access to SD while retaining cost-savings
- 3) To ensure that anyone be deemed capable of self-directing with the needed supports

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



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Self-Direction is important to me because I choose my direct support staff with my team support. My staff helps me do daily living chores in my own apartment community, do chores in the community, as well as successfully continue my part-time job at Goodwill. Self-directed services allow me to hire my own vendor, Integrated Living Opportunities, a creative non-profit. ILO Staff help me thrive integrated in my community in my own place, make friends with other self-advocates in the ILO program, work on health and wellness goals, and help learn cooking and cleaning skills needed to live on my own. I am working with ILO in helping me develop supports I will need long term to continue on my own when my parents are not available.