

SB868 Self-Directed Act

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In favor

Not one of us would choose to be disabled, much less to be disabled and put ‘in a program’.

At its core, the Self-Direction Act is an endorsement of the right to determine the course one’s own life.

Self-direction upholds the fundamental values that we all share:

- Limited Government.
- The Rule of Law.
- Fiscal Responsibility.
- Free Markets.
- Human Dignity.

In traditional services, a provider business chooses to accept the participant; people with high needs are left with few, if any, options because providers refuse to service them. Providers determine which staff work with participants, and often the activities that they do. Participants may need to go to the providers location or settle for virtual services. In some cases, providers choose where a participant lives and who lives with them.

In self-directing their services, people with disabilities—often with the support of families, case managers, and support brokers—personally choose their own staff, they choose the activities they do at home and in the community. They choose where and with whom they live. Often at far less cost than traditional services, which is heavy on overhead and management salaries.

It’s understandable that traditional providers and the Developmental Disabilities Administration itself are opposed. Preserving the status quo is seemingly in their own self-interest.

Self-direction is contrary medical model of disability, where the experts know best and disabled persons have no agency. They are a problem to be managed.

There are changes that traditional providers and DDA could allow which would keep people in self-direction as their customers... DDA could simply allow people in self-direction to choose from a menu of provider services. Providers would have to create services that people want to choose, rather than enjoy a monopoly on the participants they accept.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Please, stand up for Maryland citizens with different abilities. Stand up for Maryland families.

Support the Self-Direction Act of 2022.