

March 7, 2022

Senator Pamela Beidle

Senate Finance Committee

SB 868- Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act of 2022)

Position: Favorable

I, Alexandra Hunter, Family member and Advocate for my sister-in-law, a SD participant, would like to register my support for SB868.

To restore and maintain flexibility and access to Self-Direction while retaining cost savings.

Self-Direction is an evolving program with changing needs as families and DDA figure out what services are needed to meet the Participants daily needs. Self-Direction has changed over the last 6-7 years by DDA eliminating and/or not approving certain services even though they are allowed in traditional services. The emerging need of Operation/ House Manager positions that have already been proven as a need in traditional services, should be accessible to the SD participant as well. For example, The ARC, Bello Machre and other Provider Agencies are allowed to have the aforementioned position, it is equally important to have it available to the SD Participants to ensure their daily needs are met as well. It will not be an additional cost and would remove a mountain of stress caused to the participants and their families.

Family members should not be tasked to handle staff call-outs, schedule changes, times-sheets and mileage sheet processing, ensuring hiring and termination paperwork is completed correctly before they have to send it to the FMS, (just to name a few tasks), while they are at their own 40-hour jobs. If the government (DDA) makes Family members assume the mentioned tasks than the family member should have the option to be paid staff; especially since Family members have full time or part time jobs to support themselves to pay their rent or mortgage and other living expenses. That is one of the many reasons “The Self- Direction Services Act of 2022” (HB1020/SB868) is so important to pass, it would allow the employer authority flexibility to adjust staffing needs as well as restore Support Broker roles.

Please vote to recommend passage of this bill out of committee. As a family member of someone with a developmental disability and who is a SD Participant, I ask for your uncompromising support of our loved ones right to choose the types and intensity of supports and services they receive, so that they have control over how they want to live their own life.

Thank you!

Alexandra Hunter

