

**Support of HB1020 & SB868 – The Self-Direction Act**  
**Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services**  
**Written Testimony 3/7/22**  
**Favorable**

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As the mother of a son receiving self-directed services, I am in support of the Self-Direction Act. This unique service delivery model (one of many within the Developmental Disabilities Administration) supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be as independent as possible within their homes and communities by allowing them to choose how they spend their day, choose how they participate in their community, and choose who they spend time with.

For my son this means he has transportation and support to work at an after-school program in our community, to attend community college, to train his assistance dog, to play in a community bell choir, to participate in a parks and recreation drama club, and to teach Sunday School at a local church. It also means that he receives the physical support he needs at home with dressing and personal hygiene as well as meal preparation, laundry, and grocery shopping. My son's goal is to live in his own apartment with supports. Self-direction currently assists him to focus on the specific skills he needs to be more independent so he can reach this goal.

Historically, self-direction has saved the state money while providing remarkable outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, including my son. **HB1020 & SB868 will preserve that.** Other critical components of the Self-Direction Act will:

- provide training and materials on self-directed services to be shared with participants and their families;
- confirm the ability of participants to hire family as staff according to federal guidelines;
- restore self-directed Awake Overnight Supports for all those with a documented need;
- keep participants updated on the status of their PCP (person centered plan) throughout the creation, revision, and approval process;
- reinstate support broker role and hours;
- reimburse wheelchair-accessible and other modified vehicle owners to for mileage when the participant is a passenger, regardless of who is driving;
- remove competency requirements and provide for team support of participants;
- establish parity between self-directed and traditional services so participants in self-direction have equal access to the services they need;
- increase flexibility in Individual Family Directed Goods & Services (IFDGS).

For more information visit [MarylandSDS.org](http://MarylandSDS.org)

Thank you for your support!