

SB868 The Self-Direction Act
Terri Pumputis
Favorable with amendments

From: "Terri Pumputis" <tp@slatehillrabbitry.com>

To: "delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us" <delores.kelley@senate.state.md.us>

Sent: Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 10:51 AM

Subject: The Self Direction Act - (SB868/HB1020)

February 24, 2022

Honorable Senator Delores G. Kelley,

As one of your constituents, in Baltimore County, Reisterstown, I am writing in hopes that you would support The Self-Direction Act - (SB868/HB1020). These are several subjects in the bill that pertain to my son. 1) No prohibition to having family as staff per CMS rules. If it wasn't for family members, a lot of participants would not have any program. This will ensure that family members will always be able to work as staff following CMS rules. 2) Remove competency requirements in favor of Team Support. Since my son has been in this program, it has always been a team approach, which makes for a better program. As there are many points in the bill that pertain to my son and many others in the Self Directed program, these items in the bill do not cost the State of Maryland any more, conforms to CMS guidelines and the State of Maryland will NOT lose any Federal funds.

A little history about my son. Once my son left school, he started in a vocational program with a Provider Agency in Westminster. The situation started out well, but didn't end that way. My son started getting aggressive for OCD issues associated with favorite items, that were out in the open. It was suggested putting some of these things away (out of sight, out of mind). It was decided by the Provider Agency that they weren't going to remove those items, so my son started getting aggressive. We worked with DDA to suggest even having two 1:1's for my son, but the agency decided to discharge him from their program anyway, because they weren't going to work with individuals with behavior issues.

So, in 2014 we were left with deciding what else to do. I (as my son's parent) ended up leaving my employment, and with the CCS, Support Broker, him and our family, we decided that my son would be applying for the Home & Community Self Direction program. The Self Direction program has allowed my son to choose family as staff (which has been the best choice for him), he makes his own schedule, he does things that he wants to do and what is important to him. He likes feeding the ducks at the pond, we've taken his love of doing puzzles and developed that into him working on mosaic art projects. His mosaic tile projects have been shipped to many states. He also has the opportunity of volunteering at The Retreat at Beckleysville (therapeutic horse farm) several days per week. Feeds several horses at another farm multiple times per week. He's learned how to use many household items as dishwasher, washer & dryer, etc. He likes cooking (one of his favorites). He goes into the community almost every day, and with him being in the Self Directed program, it has allowed him to live at home with his family, which is the least costly option then in a residential facility. Right now in the Self Directed program, he is living the life he wants to live!

I'm truly hoping you would consider supporting The Self-Direction Act (SB868/HB1020), as it is very important to many individuals, and helps keep the original scope of The Self Direction program.

If any questions, you can contact me at 410-382-7519, or email: tp@slatehillrabbitry.com. Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Terri Pumputis & Justin Sauter