

I Support SB 868

The Self-Direction Act of 2022



Hi! My name is Paul Weller. I am 39 yrs. old and I live with my Mom and our two dogs. I have been in Self-Directed Services since 2006. Since I have many physical challenges and need lots of supports, I wanted to live with my Mom and Dad (d. 2016) and be able to choose who will be my Support Personnel and decide how I want to spend my days. Having Diabetes and not being able to give myself insulin made it necessary to have a Nurse as well to care for those needs and to help me stay healthy. I need more hours for my Support Broker when we need to hire new Employees. He helps me a lot in my program.

Choice and Control Matter Matter to Me!



My interview with the
Baltimore Sun about
my Fused Glass art

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Self-Direction is important to me because... It's My Life.

I have had many exciting experiences in Self-Directed Services. In 2010, I began making Fused Glass with the help of my Personal Support Staff. I love to be creative! I participated in Musicals as a part of "New Horizons", a Community Theater Group for adults with disabilities. Recently, I began an exercise program at "Spirit Club". I am learning to tell jokes and want to entertain people and make them laugh. I tell one joke every Sunday evening at our church Fellowship on Zoom. So far they are a "Hit".

DDA decided two years ago that they would no longer reimburse Mileage for those who have to ride in an Accessible Van, due to their physical disabilities. They continue to try to limit the services and activities, even though SDS is the most cost-effective program in DDA. I love my Support Broker, but we rarely get together because DDA will only let him work 4 hours /month.

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