

SB868 The Self Direction ACT

Heather Newcomb
Favorable

Maryland Senate,

I am reaching out to you to encourage you to vote in support of SB868/HB1020 The Self-Directed Services Act of 2022. If passed this act will maintain and restore support services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are tailored to meet their needs, like my daughter Hanna. The Self-Directed Services Act allows participants to have choice and control over their Medicaid waiver services and how their budget is spent while fully adhering to all applicable laws and rules/regulations set forth by CMS.

The Self-Directed Services Act personally helps, my daughter Hanna, maintain the flexibility of allowing her to continue to choose family as staff to supply her support services. This flexibility of staff choice is crucial for her due to her profound disabilities and medical fragility. Another reason this act is so important to us is that it restores the reinstatement of the Self-Directed Overnight Support Service. This support service was removed from the waiver in 2018. The Overnight Support Service is essential for the health and safety of the participants who meet the need for this service.

It has taken me years to navigate and advocate for services for my daughter. Having services available that are flexible and can be tailored to meet the needs of the participant result in a more positive outcome. The Self-Directed Service Act of 2022 supports this flexibility, and in most cases, provides a less expensive outcome for the state of Maryland.

Passing HB1020/SB868 The Self-Directed Services Act of 2022 helps all Maryland intellectual and developmentally disabled persons who choose to self direct their services.

Sincerely,
Heather Newcomb for participant Hanna Newcomb

