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Subject: Meeting Regarding Senate Bill SB868 - The Self-Directed Services Act of 2022

Date: March 1, 2022 at 4:11:45 PM EST

To: "joanne.benson@senate.state.md.us" <joanne.benson@senate.state.md.us>

Cc: Alicia Wopat <awopat@comcast.net>, Ranetta Marable <ranettamarable@yahoo.com>

Thank you, Senate Benson, for taking the time to meet with us yesterday evening. Thank you for sharing how, Tody, Ranetta and Mike's family dog (also known as my "Grand-pup") has impressed you. He does brighten up a day with his enthusiasm at just enjoying his life.

The self-direction service option under the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) can be a very successful way for recipients and their families and/or caregivers to receive support services based on the recipient's personal goals and desires. This service option is provided under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for states to allow waiver participants the greatest flexibility to obtain support services under the Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver.

Although this service method is challenging and paperwork intensive, participants and their chosen support team, have the best opportunity to develop a personalized program that builds skills and provide enriching experiences which places the individual on the best trajectory to successfully reach their goals, integrate into their community, and increase opportunities for employment.

As I mentioned in our meeting, upon the start of the COVID pandemic Brianna was able to transition from her in-person activities to virtual relatively easy. Brianna receives her HCBS services under the self-directed service method. This allows her to have a direct relationship with the individual (her staff) or agency (business) delivering her services. With this direct and flexible relationship, Brianna and her caregiver and program coordinator (me) could creatively make the necessary changes to her then current services to virtual programming and add new virtual programming. This has significantly enhanced Brianna's skill building capabilities. This was accomplished quickly, with very little disruption of services, and with continuity in her service delivery.

What Senate Bill SB868 (The Self-Directed Services Act of 2022) does is to provide increased flexibility to the maximum allowed under CMS guidelines, choice, and transparency. All of this can be accomplished within CMS guidelines and with no increase to Brianna's available funding. Self-direction is a very cost-effective service delivery method. Increasing the participant's flexibility does not increase the participant's funding but it will allow recipients further opportunity to obtain the greatest and most cost-effective use of their funding.

We ask that you favorably review and vote to pass this bill.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions regarding the self-directed service method and its success for Brianna and many of her peers living in Prince George's County. Many other families living in Prince George's County who have members with developmental and intellectual disabilities could greatly benefit from this service method.

Please note that I have reviewed Senate Bill 660 and will send you my comments under a separate email.

Thank you again,
Paulette and Brianna Roseboro

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