

SB868

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Favorable

I strongly support [SB868](#), the Self-direction Act.

I receive Medicaid waiver services through a self-directed program. This means I have the ability to determine my life: I determine my direction, I choose goals and motivations, I choose my ambitions, and who I love, where I live, where I work, how I spend my time.

Just like you.

I believe self-determination is beneficial for individuals with disabilities to be fully included in making all their choices. If you are not at the table, then you are not making choices for yourself. Individuals with disabilities can tell their team what they need and what they want. We want to be self-determined, to be at the table, to take leadership of our lives.

With Self-directed services, I have a team that includes my support broker, the Coordinator of Community Services, an Advocate, Job coaches, mentors, and my Supervisor at work (sometimes). With these people on my team, I can be fully included in a leadership role. This means I can choose how I plan to use my services, I can develop goals I want to see achieved, and I can understand what needs to be improved.

I develop my plan by doing these four things.

1. Going over the budget
2. Reflecting on last year's goals
3. Tweaking last year's plan to create a new plan
4. And adding new goals when necessary.

My self-directed budget provides job coaching, developing independence, and other employment and community skills. My services allow me to be involved in the community with peers with and without disabilities, to stay fit and to be healthy, and to use public transportation so I can be more independent in the community.

I strongly feel that individuals with disabilities should have the same right to self-determination as anybody else— because they have a voice that says “Let me do it. I have the ability. I have the voice. Support me but let me lead.”