

SB868 The Self-Direction Act
Debbie Hamann
Favorable with amendments

From: Debbie Hamann <expressionscater@aol.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 2:49 PM

Subject: Self direction act bill

To: <Matt.Morgan@house.state.md.us>

Cc: Carol Custer <carol@custerllc.com>

Hi Matt:

We have met a few times and talked regarding self direction. I was the owner of. Expressions of St Marys catering company (located at historic St. Marys City) until I retired in 2015.

I live in Leonardtown and have an adult special needs son who, after being neglected and abused in his St Mary's Group home, was brought home four years ago to live with me under a Community Pathways Waiver called Self Direction. This means, with his current budget, he and his team of supports, decide how to spend it, hire his own support staff, community learning supports, camp, etc.

This was crucial for Ryan's health and welfare and he's back to being happy and secure again. I am allowed under self direction to be one of his caregivers (personal supports) which has enabled me to take him to multiple outings and get him trusting people again.

Over the past few years, DDA has been veering away from the initial backbone of this program. We, as SDAN which is the Self Direction Advocacy Network, have been lobbying to get this program back to its initial purpose which allows family to be staff, allowed to have a support broker to help with HR type duties, have overnight supports (removed from the program!!!) as well as other important issues. The overnights is extremely important to me as I still work nights and weekends as well as need some personal breaks. Without this, I couldn't be the full time person to be with Ryan. He would have to go back to a group home which would be devastating!

I am asking for your help. As a constituent in your district, Can you please support Bill SB868/HB1020

I would love to talk with you if you need more information. Any help you can give to convince anyone else on your committee would be appreciated and I am offering my assistance as well.

All my <image0.jpeg>Best! (This is Ryan enjoying being at home with his dog)

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