

Hello, my name is Kay Spain, mother of 35 year old daughter Christy Spain who has an acquired traumatic brain injury from an automobile accident in 1999. Christy is very intelligent, however she has gone blind in her right eye and has left side hemiplegia which causes her to have balance issues. Christy needs assistance with her meals, addressing her daily pills to take, needs reminders as her TBI causes her to have short term memory issues. Christy is unable to drive and uses a scooter or wheelchair to navigate the community. We are currently with the Self Directed Agency in Carroll County Md.

I am for the Bill HB1020/SB868 Self Directed Advocacy.

We went with the Self Directed Program in November of 2019 because the agency we were with was having issues with regards to the consistent care of Christy. It was the best decision we could have made. Christy was traveling over an hour each way, while picking up other clients, sometimes with drivers not showing up on time. Once Christy would get to her agency the staff was always changing and Christy would routinely be placed in a small room to do word puzzles on the computer until a staff member would be assigned to her. Her days had become non-routine and not consistently challenging. It was more of a "lets fill the day with stuff to do" rather than a progressive program which she deserves.

Part of continued progressive care for Christy includes consistency, scheduled events, low stress environments and positive experiences. Christy is a generous, funny, creative and positive young lady. Currently she now has a part time job at Michaels Craft store in Westminster, has horseback riding lessons in good weather, goes to physical therapy twice a week, volunteers in the community (is a member of the AKTION Club, the South Carroll Lioness Lions club), crafts, bakes, goes to social activities including theater, music events and more.

Currently there is no Self-Directed Overnight Supports (This waiver service was removed in 2018). **I personally was unaware of this and am extremely concerned.** Christy's life, your life, and my life does not shut down at 4 or 5 p.m. and then again restart at 8 or 9 a.m. If something were to happen to me, Christy could be in a potential disastrous situation without assistance from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. As stated before she needs daily assistance with many daily tasks that you and I take for granted.

We also need to have DDA to be transparent and consistent with what is approved, not to have rights and things that have been approved taken away (as the overnight supports was in 2018). We rely on consistent care, that we can rely on. Our support staff is extremely important to us and they need to rely on their benefits so they stay with us. They become family, trusted individuals that we don't want to leave.

Once again we are for **the Bill HB1020/SB869 Self Directed Advocacy.**

Thank you for your time.

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