

RE: **HB0352** -

**Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409 Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.**

Our son, Al has been self-directing his services since he graduated high school in 2015. We found out about self direction because Providers wouldn't take him. Turns out it was the best thing ever to happen to him.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022 which was passed unanimously by both the Senate and the House. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023 he has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person centered plan. One small example is a very unique toothbrush that allows him to brush all of his teeth at the same time and independently and in only 1 minute - a cause for celebration!

If IFDGS is capped it will have a detrimental effect on my son's independence, community inclusion, health and safety now and especially in the future as his Dad and I become less able to care for him and manage his needs. IFDGS allows for hiring a day to day administer to take over the things that Al's parents do now.

IFDGS is part of Al's approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for his needs should be available to him. Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

We need your help. Please amend the BRFA as requested above.

Alicia, Dave and Al Wopat  
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