

Jonathan Bamberger

Position on the Bill: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/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.

I am a participant who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

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

This cap will have a detrimental effect on my independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of my approved plan and budget based on my assessed support needs-- direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for my needs should be available to me.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, I been able to access the funds from my DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in my person centered plan.

Jonathan Bamberger and Terry Bamberger

Don't leave me behind!

Please see next pages for what IFDGS allows me to do:

I can participate in weekly music lessons – the highlight of my week !



I utilize IFDGS funds for wound care protection when I go out in the community (see my big green bootie and elbow pads that were paid for with IFDGS funds (when insurance would not pay)



I can hire staff to take care of my day to day administrative needs using IFDGS unallocated funds for all of my complex needs.

