



The Arc Maryland
8601 Robert Fulton Drive
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046
T 410.571.9320
www.thearcmd.org

HOUSE BILL 352: Budget Reconciliation and Financing
Act of 2024
February 28, 2024
POSITION: Letter of Information

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Through the following section of the BRFA, (p. 20, lines 8–21, amending 7–409.8), if approved, DDA would have the ability to establish a limit on the dollar amount of individual–directed and family–directed goods and services provided to a recipient. This ability was removed through the Self Direction Act of 2022. Individual Directed and Family Directed Goods and Services are services, equipment, activities, or supplies needed by a person to enhance their ability to meet a goal in their person-centered plan. Items, activities, or services must not be available under another waiver service and must match what is allowed by CMS.

While we understand the need to generate revenues for the state budget, we would recommend this reduction not be made at this time and as it is being suggested without first a full analysis of the system: this change may very well not result in much savings to the state, but result in disruption to individual people or families in self-direction. **Instead, we would like to see an in-depth examination of the equity of the rates and rate components between provider-supported and self-directed models, an examination of the operating requirements of both providers and people who self-direct (with a lens on what requirements are necessary for health, safety, and quality of life) and a change in service definitions in our waivers to restore flexibility to peoples' lives (regardless of service model) while ensuring appropriate checks, balances, and budgetary controls.**

As a side note, people who self-direct their services should have access to updated reasonable and customary rates for use in their plans. These charts have not been recently updated to reflecting the DDA rate increases that became effective in January, 2024.

Sincerely,
Ande Kolp, Executive Director
The Arc Maryland
443-851-9351 akolp@thearcmd.org