

My name is Steve Bress. I have been a Maryland resident for much more than 50 years. I urge you to vote unfavorably on SB 362.

My son is on the DDA's Community Pathways Waiver in Self Directed Services, of which IFDGS is one aspect. The current bill seeks to unnecessarily cut the allowed expenditures under his already approved budget. As I understand it, his budget will not change, but his choices as to what he can do with unused funds ***already allocated to him*** will be impaired.

In his case, he requires a number of nutritional supplements as recommended by his doctors. He also requires more dental work, that is not fully covered by insurance, than his typical peers would.

In theory, currently there is no limit to how much of his unused funds may be used towards this goal. That is not entirely correct. Any request for funding for an IFDGS item over \$5,000 must currently both be covered by funds in the budget AND specifically approved by the DDA.

This bill would draw an arbitrary line in the sand as to how much of the money, that is already allocated to his needs, could be used to support his needs and goals under the DDA program. Or to put it another way, if his dental work this year would exceed \$5,000, under this bill, he would be out of luck. Perhaps he should only have some repairs done this year, and ignore the pain until the following budget year.

I would like to think that such is not the goal, but that is the unfortunate reality. As such, I would respectfully request that you vote unfavorably on HB 362.

Steve Bress

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