

Name: Colette Jackson

Position on SB0362/HB0352: **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 proud parent of an individual 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 is disturbing as there has been NO stakeholder survey/input from the SDS recipients and community on the consequences of such an action.

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

IFDGS is part of my daughter's approved plan and budget based on 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 her needs should be available.

**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, my daughter has been able to access the funds from her DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in her person-centered plan. Dismantling

the Act will not only have a negative impact on those serviced, but it will also set a dangerous precedent of arbitrary restrictions without first obtaining feedback from those clients who rely on these services for their health, safety, and quality of life.

**PLEASE-Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact and do not approve this bill in its current form.**

Thank you,

*Colette Jackson  
Proud Mother of Regina Maria Jackson  
Howard County, Maryland Resident  
Registered Voter*