

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. Establish a workgroup to study the issues between now and next legislative season.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Nicholas, 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 Nicholas' independence, community inclusion, health and safety.


IFDGS is part of Nicholas' approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Personal training, volunteering in his community and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Nicholas' 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.

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.

Nicholas 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.

Please don't leave me behind!


Signed by participant and their support person(s)

I'm the boss! I self-direct!



Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH – GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352. Keep the Self-Direction Act of 2022 intact. Establish a workgroup to study the issues between now and next legislative session.

**Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!
Preserving Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) Matters to Me!**



Nicholas Scarberry
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My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

go to personal training twice a week. It is great for my osteoporosis, as well as my overall health.

I also received funds this year for a new iPad. My iPad is my voice. With my new iPad, I have a program (Proloquo2Go) that I can push different buttons to say what I want to communicate. For instance, I can let someone know what I want to eat, what activity I want to do, exchange pleasantries, as well as communicate what is bothering me when I'm not feeling well.

Self direction allows me to go out in the community and do things I enjoy.

SDAN

Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.