

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. RE: SB0362 UNFAVORABLE

Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Please Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

Melanie Cooper is our 38 year old daughter and has been a participant who has received DDA Waiver services under Self Direction for 18 years. What a huge blessing it has been in all of our lives and we are grateful. We and Melanie personally testified for the passing of this in 2022!

The changes proposed in this bill are drastic and would reverse a major provision and would allow DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on IFDGS. (Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services). **We believe that the DAY to DAY ADMINISTRATION costs which are presently bunched together with IFDGS should be moved to a special line item in the fiscal management part of the budget, not in IFDGS.** We ask that you not pass this drastic measure without studying its implications for people's lives. For Melanie's 18 years in Self Direction, there was no such compensation for DAY to DAY ADMIN. The work of hiring staff, scheduling shifts, scheduling training, addressing budget issues, meeting with coordinators, nurses and support brokers, ordering supplies and medications, etc. all were done for free. Only since 2023, has there ever been compensation for Administrative hours. It is beyond amazing and is fair. Please do not slash this service. This spending does not add additional funds; it merely allows access to the approved funds within one's budget. Melanie may not be verbal, but she sure is happier, healthier and more included in her community thanks to her gym membership. See pics below

Sincerely, Kathy & Jim and Melanie Cooper Harford County



