

## I AM Ryan Gerhold – Age 34

**My History:** Normal at birth – meningitis at 9 mos left me brain damaged resulting in OCD, Anxiety, Seizures, ADD and moderate intellectual disability

### MY LIKES:

My girlfriend and going out with her  
Movies, Restaurants, Concerts, Live shows, the beach  
Sleeping with my dog, Jax  
Hanging with family, especially mom  
Helping around the house  
Being able to decide who works for me as staff  
Staying busy

**WAS RESIDENTIAL** in a group home for many years – discovered neglect and abuse. I cried a lot, felt unsafe. Never knew who was going to be taking care of me. Did not get to see my girlfriend or go where I wanted. Many nights I had no lights in my room or toilet paper in my bathroom or milk for my morning cereal. My roommate and some staff were often mean to me. No one was listening!

**Self Direction** is important to me because I am

1. **Allowed to manage my DDA budget** and decide where/how the money will be spent I go to **CAMP** three times a year and have **mileage** for staff to take me places
2. **Select own staff** – eliminating anxiety about who is going to take care of him
3. **Able to hire family as paid staff** which makes me feel **SAFE** If I couldn't do this, my mom would be working more outside the home instead of being with me
4. **Plan my own day.** Have a more meaningful day.
5. **Staff is more Personal Support** staff instead of the "one to one" They can take me to visit my girlfriend, friends, sports events and go anywhere I want. They keep me safe and clean



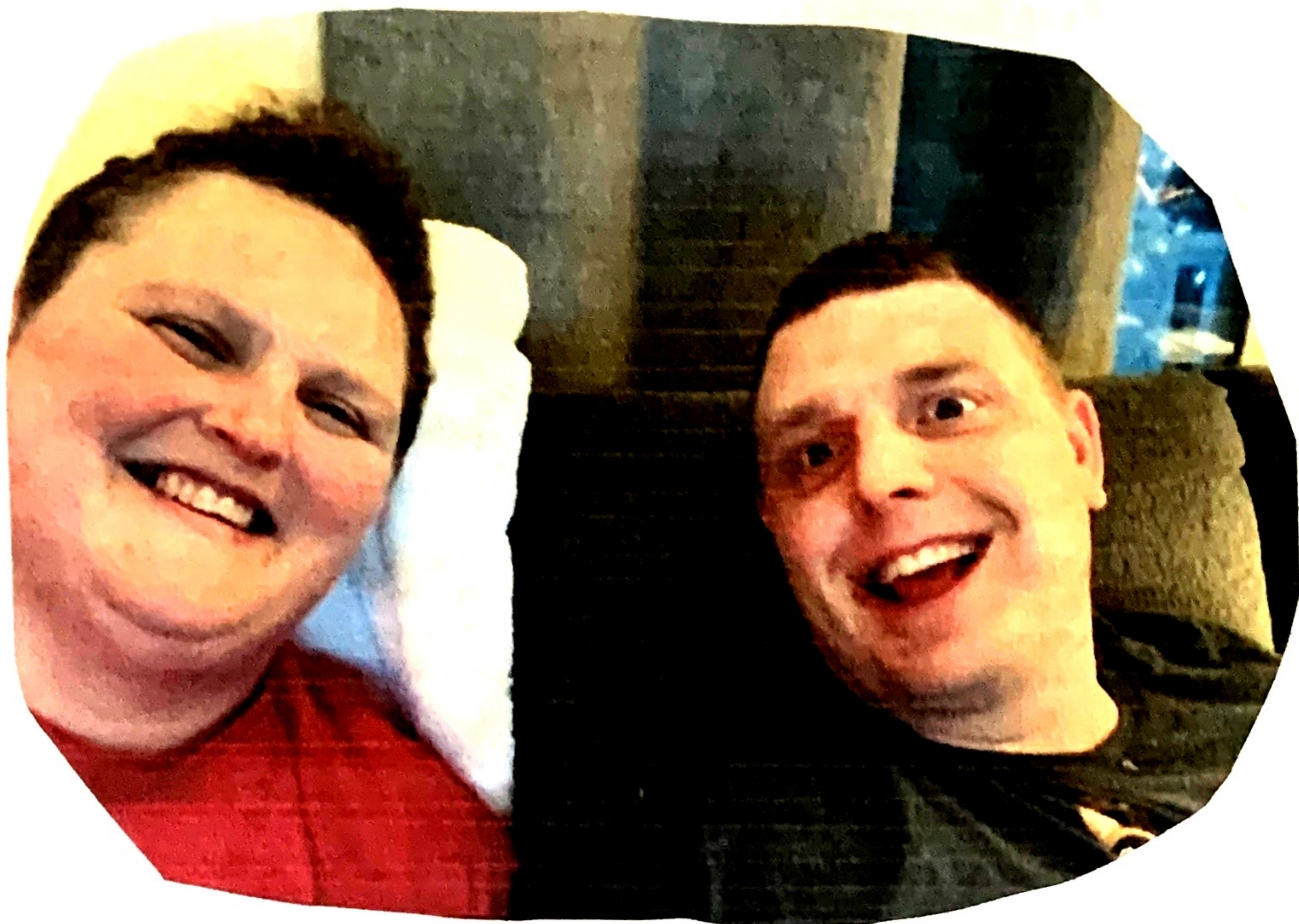
Running Hare Cookies with Santa with my family

Watching trains at FLAT IRON FARM



Christmas Eve Dinner with my Girlfriend Wanda





Enjoying time with  
my personal support  
staff!

xxoo  
Ryan Gerhold

# I support HB 318 and SB 441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services ( Self-Direction Act)

## Rob's Good Life



*My family & I support the **Self-Direction Act** because I have control over my life. I am in control.*



**Rob Stone**  
4415 Highland Ave  
Bethesda MD 20814  
[jenevastone@gmail.com](mailto:jenevastone@gmail.com)  
240-401-9693  
D-16

### Because of Self-Direction I can:

- Be an advocate for health care & disability rights
- Volunteer for Imagination Stage as an usher
- Take classes at Montgomery College
- Be a member of the Spirit Club gym
- Write poems & read them at literary events
- Play Challenger Baseball & go to Nationals & Orioles games

### What choices have I made?

- To live in my own home with my family
- To have pets
- To go where I want & do what I want, when I want

### Why do my family and I support the Self-Direction Act?) (Put your own comments in place of words below)

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow my mom to continue to help me with my advocacy career
- **R**estore my right to choose a support broker to be my primary advocate because my mom handles a lot of my other administrative needs
- **E**nsure MY choice and control of all MY services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CARE Md**

# I support HB 318 and SB 0441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## Patrick's Good Life



### Because of Self-Direction I can...

- Have an active and happy life while embracing my Autism
- Choose employees who are dedicated to helping me achieve my goals
- Make my own choices about my life, including volunteering and recreation
- Live safely and happily at home with my mom
- Be a part of my community

### What choices I have made?

- To go to horseback therapy to manage my anxiety
- To maintain a daily routine and contribute to my family's home by helping with laundry, cleaning, and shopping
- To volunteer at my public libraries, food banks, public schools, and state and local parks and trails

*My family & I support the Self-Direction Act because Choose and Control make the Good Life possible.*



### I support the Self-Direction bill because...

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

Patrick Good  
1315 Vanderbilt Rd  
Bel Air, MD  
410-879-4643  
District 35B

**#CARE Md.** For more information visit [MarylandSDS.org](http://MarylandSDS.org)

# I support HB – 0318/SB - 0441

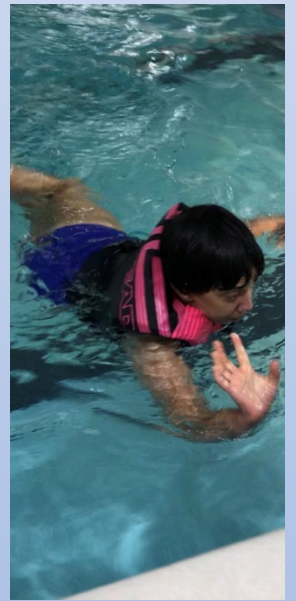
**My name is Melanie Cooper.** I am 35 years old. For 14 years I have enjoyed Self Direction through the Medicaid Waiver. I have lived in my very own apartment for the last 7 years. I have a rare seizure disorder (LGS), autism and ID. I need 24/7 assistance that staff and my family provide. I love to swim at the Y and walk the Ma & Pa Trail. I like to deliver lunch to my elderly neighbors and help keep my apartment clean. I enjoy going out to eat and singing. I love being *Aunt Melanie*.

## *Self Direction Gives me Self Worth through Independence*



Self Direction is Important to me because...

- **(Safety)** I hire and train my own staff who always walk beside me to keep me safe as I experience daily drop seizures.
- **(Choice)** I choose how I wish to spend my days
- **(Independence)** I can come and go as my energy level and changing moods allow.
- **(Support)** I have a team that works together for my best life.
- **(Health)** I have not been hospitalized in 10 years.



Melanie Cooper  
Bel Air MD.  
Harford County  
[kathykcooper@gmail.com](mailto:kathykcooper@gmail.com)  
District 34B

Hi! I'm Mary Beth and I love my life now that I am in Self Directed Services. For 10 years I was in traditional services: that is a group home and a day workshop. I wasn't happy and started showing it through my behavior. My family heard there was another way to support me and to help me live the life I wanted. Since 2009 I have been self directing my services and my life is sooooo much better. I get to live in my own condo with a typical roommate and I hire the people I want to support me. I have a great team of part time ladies that help get me to my part-time volunteer activities at nursing homes and soup kitchens (pre Covid of course! ) as well as to my community activities such as zumba, fitness classes, bowling, movies, and my favorite - eating out at restaurants. I



need you to pass **HB 318/SB 441**.

Since my family knows me best, they help with the hiring and training of staff. My Dad is my support broker and I need him to advocate for me. I am non verbal and communicate with signs and gestures and so people outside my family don't always understand what I need and want. **HB 318/SB 441** ensures that my family can always be there to support me and assist me in hiring people who will help me be the best person I can be. **HB 318/SB 441** creates an advisory board to help DDA know what is best for people in self directed services. Having **choices** about what I do each day and who works with me is very important. I need to have **control** over my life to be happy. Thank you for all you do to help me live this good life!



Here I am last year with my staff before Covid 19 and masks!!!

Mary Beth Coffin  
% Bill and Pat Coffin  
720 Springloch Rd  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301-625-7737 (h)  
301-520-0574 (c)  
[billandpatcoffin@verizon.net](mailto:billandpatcoffin@verizon.net)

# I support HB 318/SB 441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

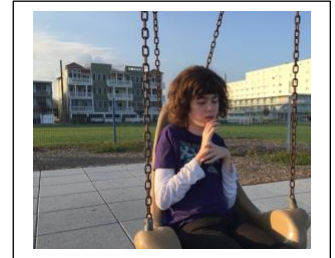
## My way my life!



### Self-Direction allows me to:

- \*Achieve goals that I select and that are meaningful to me
- \*Enables me to integrate in the community with support from those I trust and feel comfortable with
- \*Allows me to choose whom I employ
- \*Provides opportunities to have new and exciting experiences

***I support the Self-Direction Act because I deserve to have options. I am special, and I know what works best for me!***



Maria Grace Ellis  
4324A Necker Avenue  
Baltimore Md 21236

Self-Direction provides *remarkable outcomes* for people like me who have disabilities! I need this Bill to pass so I will continue to have the opportunities that I choose and will enable me to continue to have a purposeful life!

- **M**ake a strong Advisory Council to *re-establish* the principles of self-direction & DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **I**magine life with freedom of choice
- **A**nyone eligible for DDA services can self-direct

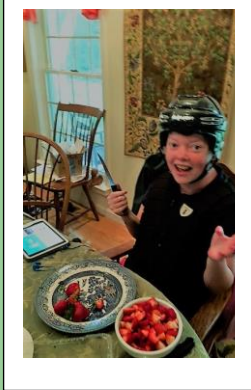
**#Maria Needs Self Direction!**



# I support HB 318 and SB441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## Lucy's Good Life



### Because of Self-Direction I can...

- Have an active and happy life despite my severe epilepsy
- Choose employees who are dedicated to helping me achieve my goals
- Make my own choices about my life, including volunteering and recreation
- Be a part of my community and live safely and happily in the home I have chosen.

### What choices have I made?

- To maintain my fragile health by working out every day
- To ride and volunteer at the Retreat at Beckleystville
- To contribute to my family home by helping with shopping, laundry, and meal prep.
- To cultivate my many community friendships

*My family & I support the **Self-Direction Act** because **Choice and Control** make the **Good Life possible.***



Lucy Carter  
18224 Gunpowder Rd.  
Hampstead, Md.21074  
410 790 4375  
District 42B

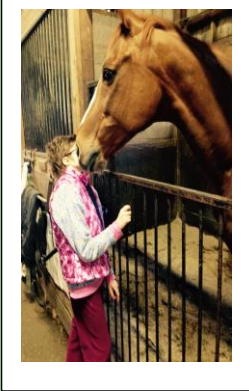
Historically **self-direction** has saved the state money while providing remarkable outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. **HB318 will preserve that.**

### What else will the Self Direction Act do?

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to *re-establish* the principles of self-direction & DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participants' choice and control of services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CARE Md.** For more information visit [MarylandSDS.org](http://MarylandSDS.org)

# My Successes in SDS



Self-Direction is important to me because...I have become healthier and happier. I exercise more, eat better foods, and am taking fewer meds. That's because my staff are trained by and work for me, not a manager in a building far away. I have learned to swim, ride horses and now work out at a gym. I have had meaningful volunteer experiences at a horse stable, and at a local humane society. I have made new friends in my community. This is my good life!

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



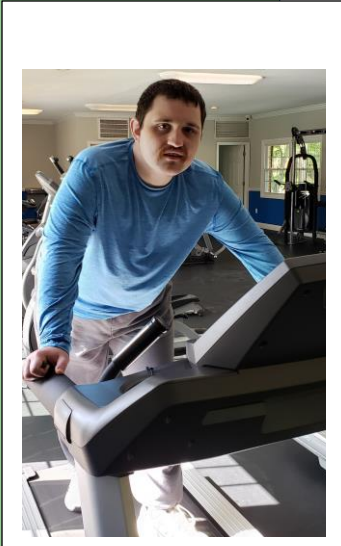
My primary concern is the DDA policy now requiring that only "providers"--not my staff--can offer third shift/overnight care. I need this support as I am Deaf Blind & nonverbal. And a provider will charge much more per hour than my staff make now. This rule will force me back into provider-directed care, b/c it's all or nothing, says DDA. If I have one shift per day with a provider, ALL shifts must be with a provider. And I already have been in two agencies and left because of health and safety concerns. This will be the end of my good life in self-direction. Help!

Kate Kolm  
Indian Head, MD  
c/o Peg Kolm  
mlkolm@mindspring.com

# I support HB 318/SB 441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## My Self Directed Life...



### Self-direction is important to me because...

I make my own schedule each day

I choose my own staff, including family members

I go to places I like and choose activities I want to do

I have a support system of my choosing, including family members!

### Choices I have made ...

With Staff, I participate in community outings, working on mosaics, participate in things that keep the home running well, volunteer at local horse farm, and perfect skills I have along with gaining new skills. Because I have many behavior issues and can be aggressive, I'm able to choose staff that will help me diffuse.

*I support the Self-Direction Act because Choice and Control make the Good Life possible.*



### I support the Self-Direction bill because it will...

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their fiduciary
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CARE Md**

Justin Sauter  
100 Brookebury Dr.  
Apt B1  
Reisterstown, MD 21136  
District 10



# All About Me



I am a 28 year old Marylander, living with a loving caregiver family, and am loved by my birth family. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with mental retardation and autism at an early age, affecting my abilities. I relish working and intermingling in the community. Competing at a normal (minimum wage) level in society is not possible, so I volunteer. Behavioral and strategies from past training, used by my caregiver and provider, greatly help me maintain and increase my abilities, in quest toward a higher level of normalcy.

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



Self-Direction is important to me because it allows choice, a favored concept amongst free citizens. Self-Direction enables me to be an active part of the community, vs. “vegetating” at an inefficient Day-Habilitation center, where my skills and behaviors decrease. Taxpayer money now goes toward Self-Direction funds, allowing me to employ an assistant to take me to worksites and other meaningful activities. Self-Direction provides a worthwhile and rewarding job for my motivated provider, who does a terrific job using learned behavioral conditioning methods to assist me with tasks and interacting in the community. Family and I worry about DDA changes to Self-Direction being made by self-serving, dispassionate, and disorganized DDA bureaucrats, chronically wasting time, money, and resources; negatively affecting me, my peers, those who care for our wellbeing, and the taxpayer.

**John Phillip  
Woodhead**  
**443-280-1096**

crwoodhead@hotmail.com

# I support HB 318 and SB 318

Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## (1) My Good Life



**(2) Because of Self-Direction I can... (Self-direction is important to me because...)**

Go to CCBC Single Step Programm  
I can volunteer at TRRC & La Cheval Farm

I can sleep in if I am awake all night  
Choices I have made .... (or What choices have I made?  
Or some other heading of your choice or no additional heading)

To maintain a healthy weight by working out every day. To volunteer at TRRC & La Cheval Farm

**(3) My family & I support the Self-Direction Act because Choose and Control make the Good Life possible.**

Insert Picture



**(4) What will the Self-Direction Do? (or I support the Self-Direction bill because... or Why do my family and I support the Self-Direction Act?) (Put your own comments in place of words below)**

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

John Kusik  
3007 Terra Maria  
Way  
Ellicott City MD 21042  
District  
410-480-3919 IB

#CARE Md

Self Direction is important to me because...

I can choose my own staff. My family knows me best so they are my staff as well.

Have an active and happy life despite my severe autism

Choose employees who are dedicated to helping me achieve my goals

Be part of my community

Participate in Camp Inclusion social events and participate in The Autism Society events

John Kusik  
3007 Terra Maria Way  
Elliott City MD 21042  
410-480-3919  
District 1B

## Choices I have made ....

To contribute to my family home by helping with chores, laundry, meal prep, shopping

To cultivate my many community friendships

To adjust my schedule to suite my needs  
I have chose to have my family work for me because they know my health care needs and my rigid schedule. They know my likes and dislikes and understands my health care needs the best.

John E Kusik  
3007 Terra Maria Way  
Ellicott City MD  
21042

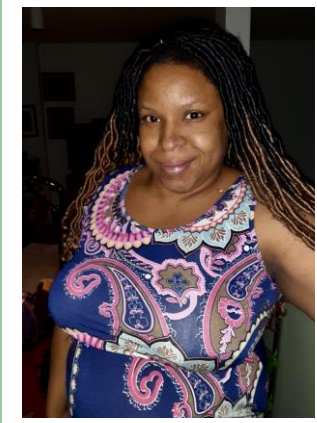
410-480-3919

John Kusik & His Mom  
Frances Angarita





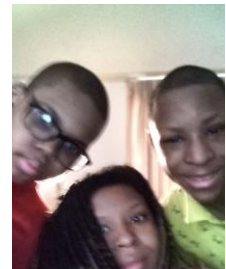
# Jessica's Self-Directed Life



Self-direction is important to me because it makes feel in charge of my life. It gives me the freedom to hire my own employees who help me engage in my community. My employees help me with meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housekeeping. By being an employer I have learned about the importance of managing my budget and making choices that match my needs.

I recently completed a course at CCBC in job development. And I also participate in the Arc's Partners in Policymaking program. I am working towards a job as a peer support specialist for people with disabilities.

*Self-Direction has empowered me to work towards independence*



Jessica Salmon  
7507/ Stonecutter Cr.  
Rosedale, Md.  
21237  
Election District 8  
443 835 8517

I support the Self-Direction bill because...  
(Why do my family and I support the Self-Direction Act?)

- **C**reate strong Advisory Council to re-establish core principles of self-direction
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their fiduciary.
- **E**nsure participant's choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CARE Md**

January 19, 2021,

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of House Bill 318 and Senate Bill 441, Developmental Disabilities Administration- Self- Directed Services (Self-Direction Act). The contents of HB 318 are very important to recipients of services received through the Self Directed Services Delivery Model. Self Direction allows families to tailor services in the most effective and efficient way to best meet the needs of disabled individuals. As everyones disability is unique so are the needs. Self Direction provides the autonomy required to allocate services on an individual need basis.

For my disabled adult, Self Direction allows us to hire and employ family members to carry out services. For us, having family members provides a safe, quality and trusting level of service. In addition, being able to hire family members lowers employee turnover, eliminates staff call outs and especially during times of pandemics provides a medically safer service environment.

The bill will help preserve and improve Self Direction. One specific improvement, in the bill, would be the ability to offer employment to all family members. Currently under Self Direction, we cannot hire family members or legal guardians who have a fiduciary duty to or serves as a designated representative for the recipient of services. In many cases, the current exclusion affects parents of disabled adults from being employed as staff.

Self Direction is important to so many in the state of Maryland. We need to continue to offer and improve the Self Directed Delivery Model. As legislatures, you need to hear our voices and help pass House Bill 318/ Senate Bill 441.

Sincerely,  
Heather Newcomb  
Parent of Hanna Newcomb







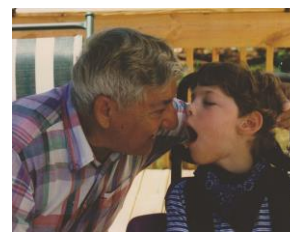
# My Self-Directed Life



Francis with DN

Because of Self-Direction I can choose my Personal Supports staff. I can spend time with people I like. I can go to music therapy and Bingo every week. I can go shopping, take drives and go to medical appointments with my staff. I have chosen to self-direct so that I can control what I do and when I do it. I especially like music therapy, walking in my neighborhood and Bingo.

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



Francis Garove  
18 Flintlock Ct.  
Perry Hall, MD 21128  
Election District

What will the Self-Direction HB-0318 and SB-0441 do?

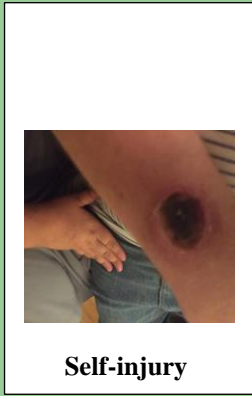
- Keep DDA accountable.
- Continue to allow family as advocates without restricting family as direct support staff
- Allow participants to choose and have funded activities of their choice as it is designated in their plan
- Mandate that anyone eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CARE Md**

# I support HB 318 and SB441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## My Good Life



**Because of Self-Direction I can** ... develop a daily schedule with enough flexibility in it to help me stay calm.

I have intermittent Explosive disorder. I'm like the guy who has road rage. I become very self-injurious and have many scars on my hands and arms. One size fits all programs cause my anxiety to build because I do not always understand what they want me to do.

But in self-direction services my support people are able to reshuffle my activities and provide me with time and space to calm myself. I'm controlling myself in self-direction especially since I've had a behavioral plan designed for me.

*My family & I support the Self-Direction Act because Choice and self-determination make for a Good Life*



Special Olympics

**I Support the Self-Direction Act because...** it will restore self-direction to the flexible program it once was and allow me to maintain control over my plan and my supports and my life

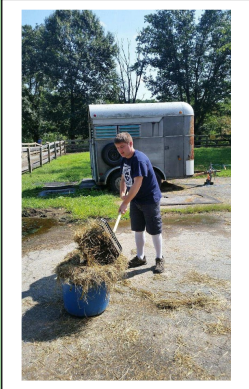
**This is important to me because...** In May 2019 my medications stop supporting me and I almost ended up in a residential placement. My parents got little support from DDA during my 15 month crises. Because I am self-directing, my parents found resources that slowly turned my trajectory around. I'm now participating with staff confidently and calmly, I have a spelling system I use to express my anxieties, thoughts and choices. I am going into the community and, although I still self-injury, I have fewer episodes that are lasting for shorter periods of time. Self-directed service has given me back quality of life. Please give me more control over my plan so I can continue to flourish. Support HB318 because it will:

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

Name  
Address  
Contact Information  
Election District

#CARE Maryland

# My Self-Directed Life

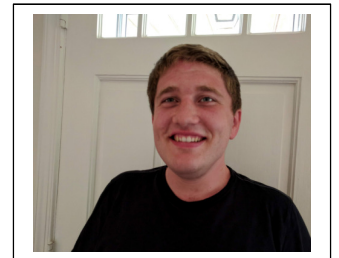


My name is Douglas Gabler. I am 24 years old.  
I have severe autism and am nonverbal.  
I am in the DDA Self-Directed services program.

Under Self-Direction I have a wonderful daily program that really meets my needs. I am physically strong and love to be outside. I need to be physically active to use up all my energy. I've also been involved in therapeutic horseback riding since I was 14 years old. Putting all of this together, my family helped me set up a program where I work at the Wheaton Park Stables.

I love it! Every day I go there with a helper, and I'm busy all day long. I unload the hay wagon, deliver hay to the barn, feed the horses, and muck the fields. I'm proud to be taking care of the horses and their pastures. Despite my disability, I am making a contribution to the community.

*Choice and Control Matter  
Matter to Me!*



*Unloading the hay wagon*

My Self-Directed program is good for me, but it's a bureaucratic nightmare for my family. This bill is important to me because I need the supports and flexibility that used to be available under Self-Direction but have been taken away.

- I need a voice via an Advisory Council.
- I REALLY need a strong Support Broker who can do more for me than the minor role the current system allows; i.e, I need that role restored so my Broker can be an advocate for me and help with my program.
- I need to be able to hire relatives as staff -- Who knows me better? It is really hard to find qualified people to work with me and in this time of COVID, it is even more difficult.

My family and I support the Self-Direction Act because it will help me build a life based on my strengths and my choice. Thank you for time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Douglas Gabler*

Douglas Gabler  
10125 Markham St.  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
emgabler@verizon.net  
Maryland District 20



## Meet Desi – aka Desmond Langston

Desi has been living with multiple disabilities since being born prematurely. He has intense medical and physical needs. He has a staff of four non-family staff that have worked with him and provided excellent care for at least three years and some as long as 15 years. He loves his staff and wants to keep them with him when he moves into his own home that his parents, now in their 70's, have had built for him in 2020. Desi needs the consistency of having these staff to be successful in his own home and transition to a time when his parents are no longer able to support him in any capacity. A time that all parents with adult children with disabilities fear.

But, despite only needing an additional 21 hours of support to make the move, Desi can't move into his own home

**Why?** Because DDA policies do not allow him to have all the personal support hours he needs. DDA has been trying to force Desi into a provider-managed service to get his overnight support needs: Supported Living.

So, Desi loses all control of this service. He can pick the agency, but can't count on having the staff he loves and trusts. He will be with strangers in his most vulnerable times.

**You would think that DDA is doing this because this will save the state tons of money, but that would be incorrect!** This option will actually cost the state a minimum of \$44,000 a year, but more likely over \$70,000/year. (See attached detail)

Desi and his team have been working over a year to get this resolved. During that time, Desi's aging mother's health has deteriorated because of the stress of dealing with Covid19 and the unresolved situation. No one from DDA offers solutions or help. They continue to state that Supported Living is a cost-effective service and he needs to pick an agency.

However, Desi's team has reached out to over 14 agencies, most of which never responded to the call or email. Those who have cannot come close to Desi's staff current salary and benefits. Many are not interested in working with self-direction. Desi faces the very REAL possibility of losing his treasured staff if their hourly rates are reduced. This situation is **LOSE -- LOSE.**

**HB318 offers a way to give Desi and the State a WIN – WIN! Please help Desi and the many other people caught in this situation there are a lot of them and there will be more.**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We urge you to protect The Maryland Disabilities Self-Direction program by supporting and passing bill HB 318/SB 441.

We have a 29-year-old son with severe disabilities who has been using self-direction. Since he started with self-direction, he has been doing much better, has a better sense of purpose and self-worth, and is able to remain living with us rather than move to a group home (which he does not want to do).

Since he has been in self-direction, he has been able to get a part time paying job cleaning eggs at a farm. He would not be able to do any job alone or even with periodic checks. He needs help all the time and must always have a responsible person with him for his safety. We never thought he would be able to get a job, but with self-direction he has been able to.

However, it is always challenging to find good people to work with him. It is also very challenging to keep them since they generally have this job as a temporary career situation. Either they go back to school or get a job with better pay and a better future for them. In two years we have gone through four different care givers.

This has not been easy for us, but the ability to have me, his mother, step in as support staff and fill the vacancies has been critical. I have been able to take the role as his caregiver including going to and helping him with his volunteer and job positions. It would be very difficult if this program were not available for us.

Also, since the onset of COVID we have not been able to hire and use additional helpers because he has a compromised immune system. He currently has one helper who goes with him to his job at the farm three days a week for several hours. She also has a compromised system and is also very careful. The job cleaning eggs does not have them interact with any other people, so we feel they are pretty safe there. However, she does not feel safe coming into our house, and we understand and agree, so all other weekly services are currently performed by me.

In addition to being able to be part of his care network it is also important that we are able to continue to use a support broker to help navigate the self-direction program, which can be hard.

Passing Bill HB 318/SB 441 will help Daniel live his life in the best way he can!

Thank You,  
Colleen, Brian and Daniel O'Mara

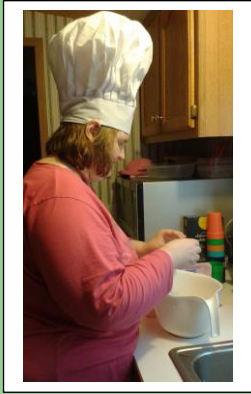




# I support HB318 and SB441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

## My Self Directed Life



Self-direction is important to me because I can count on continuity with my staff. They work with me to make good choices in activities and in daily living.

I can make changes in my staff and use as many hours as my budget allows.

I can use family as staff. They help me meet the purpose of the Program. This also avoids having to frequently orient new staff. I also get more help than the hours budgeted.

### *Choice and Control Matter to Me!*



I support the Self-Direction bill because:

- It provides for self-direction and DDA accountability
- It allows me to continue to include family members as support staff.
- I have made progress in language and ADLs since working with my staff in the program.
- It would help me get my Support Broker back so I can meet and have use of all aspects of the Program correctly.
- It insures participant choice of all services as well as being budget friendly to the State.

Courtney Litzenberger  
8033 Fair Breeze Drive  
Severn, MD 21144  
Ruth.litz@comcast.net  
District 33

# My Self Directed Life



## Self-Direction is important to me because...

- I like to decide what I am going to do with my time instead of having to do what someone else tells me.
- I have a lot of interests, like
  - Ventriloquism- I hope to be on America's Got Talent someday
  - Snowboarding- I love to snowboard, and this year I will be able to volunteer as an instructor trainee to help other people with I/DD learn to snowboard.
  - England and Fashion- I love everything about England, and I am saving up my money from my job at MOD Pizza to go to London. I really admire a British fashion model and TV presenter named Holly Willoughby and I like to take pictures of myself wearing similar outfits and posting those pictures on Instagram.
  - Dancing- I love to dance, and I am really proud of my gold medal at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019. I was Wonder Woman- one of my favorite superheroes!
- I like having someone that I choose help me do the things I love. My aide Angel is close to my age, and I love to share my interests with her and hang out with her.
- I am proud that I can make my own decisions.

*Choice and Control  
Matter to Me!*



Carmen Houston-Ludlam

PO Box 429

Lothian, MD 20711

Mom's Cell: 443-994-0902

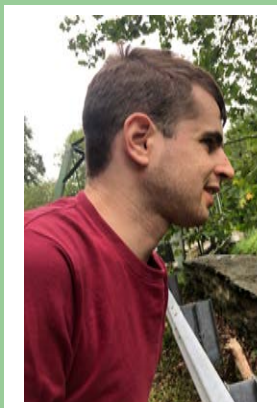
[ginger.hl@runningspringsfarm.com](mailto:ginger.hl@runningspringsfarm.com)

Legislative District: 30B

I support the Self-Direction bill because it will protect my ability to self-direct my services. I love my life!

**#CARE Md**

# My Self-Directed Life



## Self-direction is important to me because...

Controlling how I spend my day makes me happy. Everyday can be unique.

I can experience new places in the community when the timing is right for me.

I hire employees that truly care about me and help me achieve my goals.

I have been able to safely maintain some of my time in the community even during Covid 19.

I am learning to be more independent at home and that feels great.

I can change my program as I gain more independence because I have a team that support me.

*Choice and Control  
Of My Day Matter to Me!*



Al Wopat  
905 Monkton Rd  
Monkton, Md 21111  
[awopat@comcast.net](mailto:awopat@comcast.net)  
410-591-2036

- Historically **self-direction has saved the state money** while providing remarkable outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. **HB 0318 will preserve that by:**
- **C**reating a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llowing participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estoring the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary fiduciary
- **E**nsuring participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andating that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

**#CAREMd**