

Support of SB 441 – The Self-Direction Act
Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services
Written Testimony 2/16/21

As the mother of a son receiving self-directed services, I am in support of the Self-Direction Act. This unique service delivery model (one of many within the Developmental Disabilities Administration) supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be as independent as possible within their homes and communities by allowing them to choose how they spend their day, choose how they participate in their community, and choose who they spend time with.

For my son this means he has transportation and support to work at an after-school program in our community, to attend community college, to be the captain of a trivia team at a local restaurant, to play in a community bell choir, to participate in a parks and recreation drama club, and to teach Sunday School at a local church. It also means that he receives the physical support he needs at home with dressing and personal hygiene as well as meal preparation, laundry, and grocery shopping. My son's goal is to live in his own apartment with supports. Self-direction currently assists him to focus on the specific skills he needs to be more independent so he can reach this goal.

Watch this video to see the life-changing power of self-direction for individuals with developmental disabilities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=277skpmidRY>

Historically, self-direction has saved the state money while providing remarkable outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, including my son. **SB441 will preserve that.** Other critical components of the Self-Direction Act will:

- Create a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability;
- Ensure participants' choice and control of services;
- Allow participants to continue to include family members as support staff;
- Mandate that anyone eligible for DDA services can self-direct; and
- Restore the participants' right to choose a support broker who acts as their fiduciary.

For more information visit MarylandSDS.org

Thank you for your support,

Pamela R. Miller, Ed.D., mother of a client in self-direction
7290 Ridge Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

Pamiller8@gmail.com

443-562-9945

District 9A